

Hafa Adai!

MVA joins Int'l Tourism Expo in HK. **PAGE 2**

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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THURSDAY JUNE 27, 2024

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## Assange's 14-year-long case comes to an end on Saipan



Julian Assange, middle, leaves the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon a free man. He is accompanied by counsels Jennifer Robinson, left, and Barry Pollack.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**A**fter 14 years, journalist Julian Assange's case regarding the dissemination of classified U.S. national defense information has come to an end yesterday with the WikiLeaks founder walking out the U.S. District Court for the NMI a free man.

» **Manglona: You are now free to pursue your life as a free man**

### RELATED NEWS

Assange sentenced for conspiring to obtain, disclose classified nat'l defense information..

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Assange, who has served 62 months imprisonment at Belmarsh Prison in the United Kingdom as he fought extradition to the United States, was sentenced to time served following a change of plea and sentencing hearing before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Manglona, during the sentencing, said Assange is now free to pursue his life as a free man. See **ASSANGE** on Page 4



CHRYSTAL MARINO

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange goes through the metal detector yesterday prior to his change of plea hearing and eventual sentencing at the U.S. District Court of the NMI.

### A timeline of the legal case involving WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange

The drawn-out legal case involving WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has concluded with his guilty plea to obtaining and publishing U.S. mili-

tary secrets.

In a deal with the U.S. Justice Department, Assange was sentenced Wednesday to the See **TIMELINE** on Page 4



DEL BENSON

The media throng after WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's sentencing yesterday at the U.S. District Court of the NMI. They're seen here during the press conference of Assange's lawyers Barry Pollack and Jennifer Robinson.

## Tourism chief: It's great PR

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
EDITOR

No less than the Northern Marianas tourism chief is thanking his lucky stars for Wikileaks founder Julian Assange's unexpected decision to choose Saipan as the venue to plead guilty to a charge under the U.S. Espionage Act.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said the CNMI, a U.S. commonwealth in the Western Pacific, is expected to have a public relations windfall brought about by Assange's not-even-a-day judicial excursion to this little dot in the middle of the Pacific.

See **TOURISM** on Page 4

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

The Marianas Visitors Authority is set to launch a new campaign in July that is expected to revamp the CNMI's presence in Tokyo.

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### WORLD

Relentless Russian attacks on Ukrainian positions defending the strategically important eastern town of Chasiv Yar are disrupting troop rotations and the delivery of some supplies, soldiers in the area say.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Hillary Clinton's next book is a collection of essays, touching upon everything from marriage to politics to faith, that her publisher is calling her most personal yet.

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Local

MVA joins Int’l Tourism Expo in HK



The Marianas Visitors Authority promotes the Marianas at the International Travel Expo Hong Kong held on June 13-16, 2024, at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center.

For the first time since before the pandemic, the Marianas Visitors Authority returned this month to International Travel Expo Hong Kong—the city’s only annual travel fair—to promote the Marianas.

On June 13-16, 2024, the MVA and MVA members such as Century Tours, Sky Dive Saipan, and E-Land joined ITE Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, sharing the allure

of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The travel fair included other major and emerging markets for visitors from Hong Kong and South China. Forty other destinations and 515 exhibitors joined the event, which



The Marianas Visitors Authority promotes the Marianas at the International Travel Expo Hong Kong held on June 13-16, 2024, at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center. Over 70,000 consumers and travel trade and media representatives attended the event.

had over 70,000 attendees. “Our participation in ITE Hong Kong 2024 was a resounding success, enabling us to strengthen ties with key stakeholders, promote tourism between Hong Kong and The Marianas, and showcase the unique offerings of our destination,” said MVA Marketing

manager Thomas Kim. “It provided a valuable platform to connect with travel enthusiasts, industry professionals, and potential visitors, further positioning the Marianas as a must-visit destination in the Asia-Pacific region.”

As part of its promotional activities, the MVA organized a creative activity at its booth to engage attendees and create buzz around the Marianas. Attendees were encouraged to follow the MVA’s Instagram page and participate in a fun photo booth experience featur-

ing Marianas-themed props. Participants shared their photos on their own social media accounts, spreading awareness about the destination. As a token of appreciation, small giveaway items enhanced their experience and aimed to create a lasting impression. So far this fiscal year, the Marianas has welcomed about 9,000 visitors from China. Prior to the pandemic in FY 2019, the Marianas received nearly 190,000 visitors from China, a top source market alongside South Korea. (PR)

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Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



The Marianas Visitors Authority promotes the Marianas and the individual attractions of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the International Travel Expo Hong Kong held on June 13-16, 2024, at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center. Hong Kong Airlines flies twice weekly between Hong Kong and Saipan.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CHCC

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM (EHDP)

RFP24-CHCC/EHDP-017

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2024

TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

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INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA

CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



# CNMI, Guam, A. Samoa, US Virgin Islands’ Digital Equity Plan accepted

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Tele-

## Free NMC info session on July 2

Northern Marianas College invites all community members looking to learn more about the college’s admissions process and financial aid options to attend a free information session on Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

The info session will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Su-supe, with doors opening at 5:30pm. Registration is not required for this info session. The session will cover topics in regards to NMC’s upcoming Fall 2024 semester.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC’s upcoming Fall 2024 semester, a savings of about \$75.

Incoming students who have attended a Start Smart Seminar, Cash for College, or Climb Higher Seminar in the past year can avail of having their application and placement test fees waived for the Fall 2024 semester.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Concentration in Accounting or without Concentration); Associate of Arts in Business, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications), Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (Emphasis in Education, Health and Physical Education, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without Emphasis), Associate of Science in Nursing, Associate of Science in Agriculture, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

NMC’s Fall 2024 semester will begin on Aug.19, 2024. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 237-6769/70/71/72 or email [oar@marianas.edu](mailto:oar@marianas.edu). (PR)

communications and Information Administration has accepted Digital Equity plans from American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Digital Equity Act, part of the Internet for All initiative and a key piece of President Biden’s Investing in America Agenda, provides \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion. The program aims to ensure that all people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy.

Each territory received \$150,000 from the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program to create a plan aimed at addressing disparities in digital access, skills and affordability across the state.

NTIA has now accepted digital equity plans from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. On March 29, 2024, NTIA launched the \$1.44 billion Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program. Under the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), states and territories can apply for funding from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to begin implementation of their accepted digital equity plans.

In the coming months, NTIA will launch the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program, which will make funds available to a variety of entities, including (for example) some political subdivisions of states, native entities, nonprofits, community anchor institutions, local educational agencies, workforce development organiza-

tions, as well as territories.


“I am incredibly proud to announce that the NTIA has accepted the CNMI’s Digital Equity Action Plan. This achievement underscores our dedication to closing the digital divide and ensuring all residents have access to the tools and skills necessary to thrive in the digital age,” said CNMI Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. “Guided by the CNMI Broadband Policy and Development Office and supported by our local stakeholders and federal partners, we have crafted a plan that will enhance the foundation necessary for a vibrant digital economy. This plan promises to drive growth, foster innovation, and improve the quality of life for everyone in our community. Thank you to everyone involved for helping us take this crucial step toward a more con-

nected and prosperous future.”

“We are glad to learn that our Digital Equity plan has been approved. We are grateful to our stakeholders and those in our community who contributed to this effort,” said American Samoa Commerce director Petti Matila. “We are looking forward to the implementation phase as there is a great deal of work to be done to ensure our people have the necessary tools and skills needed to leverage the power of and opportunities created by broadband and the internet. Fa’afetai tele lava!”

“This is an exciting first step in laying the foundation for a more digitally resilient territory,” said U.S. Virgin Islands

Digital Equity and Inclusion director Jaughna Nielsen-Bobbit. “This plan was not developed in a vacuum, and we are grateful to the local community stakeholders, mainland digital equity partners, and to the NTIA for their expertise, time, and support in creating a blueprint for the U.S. Virgin Islands to address the digital divide here in the territory. Being disconnected from a connected world is not new to us, so it is crucial that we are strategically investing in our community to ensure that Virgin Islanders have access to the same digital resources, knowledge, and skills as our fellow Americans who reside on the mainland U.S.” (PR)



## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>  
Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866 / 234-7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021

### Amendment No. 2

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

(This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds)

#### NMHC IFB 2024-006

#### MARIANAS HIGH-SCHOOL CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting sealed bids for the Marianas High-School Career Technical Education Center Construction Project.

The proposed project activity will be an approximately 42,000 square-foot, reinforced concrete two story building. The new facility will include technical education classrooms include automotive workshop, culinary arts training kitchen, performing arts theatre, mock-up hotel room, various classrooms, flexible spaces, electrical room, telecom room, storage space, office space, designated loading area, restrooms, fire pump room, water tank, exterior walkways, and an exterior enclosure for mechanical equipment.

The site improvements include perimeter sidewalks, training kitchen garden, grading as the building is raised 2' above existing grade, driveway to allow vehicles access to the theatre back of house, and driveway to the automotive workshop.

Site water will be connected through a new connection along Beach Road. The facility's sanitary sewer system will connect to the existing sewer gravity lines within the campus Power will be routed from Beach Road and to a new pad mounted transformer just west of the building.

The project is funded through the Economic Development Authority (EDA), US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the CNMI Office of the Governor, Public Assistance Office (PAO). EDA and HUD funding will be utilized for the superstructure and site improvements.

The Project Package will be available beginning **April 30, 2024**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan on **May 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2024-006**. For Bidders within the CNMI, an original, three (3) copies of sealed bids and one (1) USB flash drive must be submitted to the NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 2:00 p.m. July 06, 2024 July 19, 2024**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. **Notice of Intent** to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, **July 06, 2024 July 19, 2024**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 234-9021, or via email to [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net). For bidders outside the CNMI, an original, three (3) copies and one (1) USB Flash Drive of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 06, 2024 July 19, 2024**, and must be received at NMHC no later than **July 16, 2024 July 30, 2024**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan at **2:30 p.m. local July 06, 2024 July 19, 2024**. However, if notice of intent to bid is received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **2:00 p.m. local time on July 17, 2024 July 31, 2024**

Bid Security: Bids shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the bid which maybe a Bid Bond (form enclosed) in cash, by certified check, cashiers' check or other form acceptable to NMHC.

Bidding Procedures shall be in compliance with the NMHC Procurement Regulations (NMIAC § 100-60)

Breach of Ethical Standard

**NMIAC § 100-60-725 (a) Gratuities and Kickbacks**

**Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor.

**Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order.

**NMIAC 100-60-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees**

**Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure NMHC contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business.


NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government

/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

/s/  
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors



## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 501521, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8  
Fax: (670) 322-6548 • E-Mail: [nmdir@ovrgov.net](mailto:nmdir@ovrgov.net)

**FY 2024 SRC 2nd General Membership Meeting**  
**June 28, 2024 - 9:00am**  
**Crown Plaza Resort – Terrace Private Room**


### AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of FY 2024 SRC 1st General Membership meeting Minutes of January 30, 2024.
- Review of Membership Vacancies/Reappointments
- Reports
  - SRC Chairperson
  - Committee Report
  - OVR Director
- Old Business
  - Update on Local fund match
  - Review and Discuss SRC By-Laws
  - CSNA update
  - CAP update
- New Business
- Action item:
  - OVR P&P Section 16 – Off-Island Service Policy
- Miscellaneous
  - Next SRC meeting
- Adjournment

/s/ Antonelli Rosario, Chairperson

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals who wish to attend the meeting but requires accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreter to contact the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation at 322-6537/6538 or email [jimbo@ovrgov.net](mailto:jimbo@ovrgov.net) in advance before the meeting.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (DOE,OSERS Grant #H126A240078).



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

### INVITATION TO BID

**ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400102**

**SUBMISSION DATE: July 16, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

### “Kagman Chacha Road Anti-Skid, Saipan.”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The project package will be available on or after **June 13, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 02, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ChST** at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on July 09, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL  
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.  
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services



# MVA to launch new Japan campaign to revamp CNMI presence in Tokyo

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is set to launch a new campaign in July that is expected to revamp the CNMI's presence in Tokyo.

According to MVA managing Christopher A. Concepcion, MVA is gearing up to launch a new campaign in

Japan called "Japan Reset" catered to travelers interested in getting away from the hustle and bustle of city life in Tokyo.

"We are very excited. We started launching the social media reels but the actual launch for the whole campaign will take place in July. We are very excited about that," he said.

Concepcion explained that

## ASSANGE

From page 1

tencing portion of the hearing, told Assange that if his case were brought before her back in 2012, not knowing what she knows now (that he was imprisoned in one of the harshest facilities in the UK for over five years, and that there was no victim in this case) she would not be accepting his plea deal.

However, Manglona said it's now 2024 and that there are these factors to consider, including that his co-conspirator Chelsea Manning served a served-year imprisonment term, she is inclined to grant him time served of 62 months.

Because the charge against Assange carries 41-51 months' imprisonment, Assange was able to leave the CNMI a free man culminating a 14-year battle with the U.S. Department of Justice.

"In looking at what happened here, I am inclined to sentence you to time served and I'm not imposing supervised release. Assuming you comply with the plea agree-

ment terms, your case ends here on Saipan," she said.

"It appears you will be able to walk out this court room a free man. I do hope that you won't be back. The island has been celebrating 80 years of peace since the Battle of Saipan...There's some peace you need to restore in yourself when you walk out of here and pursue your life as a free man," she said.

In addition to being sentenced to time served, the indictment and charges against Assange filed in Virginia will be dismissed.

After Manglona sentenced Assange to time served officially making him a free man, a small smile crept upon his lips.

After the hearing's conclusion, Assange was seen smiling wide and hugging his lawyers, friends, and family members.

Although he didn't address the media, when asked how he felt about officially becoming a free man after over 10 years, Assange smiled excitedly and nodded his head.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

MVA is trying to regain its edge in Japan.

"The Japan market has been fundamentally transformed since COVID and we are sort of trying to regain that edge the CNMI had for decades in the Japan Market," he said.

Concepcion noted the CNMI was once one of the most popular destinations to visit for Japanese travelers.

"We were once one of the most popular destinations

to visit for the Japanese and our goal right now is to capture the newer generation like the Gen Z and the millennials who are the future of Japan," he said.

Concepcion said MVA has partnered with a creative ad agency in Japan to carry out this campaign.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## TOURISM

From page 1

"OMG it's great PR for Saipan and the CNMI! We are getting tremendous international media coverage on Julian Assange's expected visit to Saipan tomorrow to appear in federal district court to plead guilty to violating the Espionage Act. So far, we've seen news coverage from Ja-

pan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, India, United Kingdom, Qatar, Israel, Canada, France, Germany, USA, and other nations, all of them mentioning Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands," he said.

Concepcion hopes the media frenzy brought about by Assange's arrival—and eventual sentencing for time served after cutting plea deal with the U.S. government—will trans-

late to a buzz that would eventually attract more tourists to the CNMI.

"As they say, there's no such thing as bad publicity. I do think that because of the massive attention Saipan is getting, we will be seeing an increase in media inquiries and visits in the immediate future. We've been advised that there are international reporters arriving on flights tonight from Tokyo and Seoul. We hope to see an uptick in tourist arrivals as people's curiosity has been piqued due to all the coverage we've been getting. They are interested in knowing more about Saipan and the Marianas. The MVA has already been contacted by foreign reporters interested in knowing more about our islands," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)


## TIMELINE

From page 1

five years he'd already served in a British prison while fighting extradition. It allows him to walk free and resolves the case that centered on the publication of a trove of classified documents.

Here is a look at key events in the case:

- 2006: Assange founded WikiLeaks in Australia. The group begins publishing sensitive or classified documents.
- 2010: In a series of posts, WikiLeaks releases almost half a million documents relating to the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- August 2010: Swedish prosecutors issue an arrest warrant for Assange based on one woman's allegation of rape and another's allegation of molestation. The warrant is withdrawn shortly afterward, with prosecutors citing insufficient evidence for the rape allegation. Assange denies the allegations.
- September 2010: Sweden's director of prosecutions reopens the rape investigation. Assange leaves Sweden for Britain.
- November 2010: Swedish police issue an international arrest warrant for Assange.
- December 2010: Assange surrenders to police in London and is detained pending an extradition hearing. The High Court grants Assange bail.
- February 2011: A district court in Britain rules Assange should be extradited to Sweden.
- June 2012: Assange enters the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, seeking asylum, after his bids to appeal the extradition ruling fail. Police set up an around-the-clock guard to arrest him if he steps outside.
- August 2012: Ecuador grants him political asylum.
- July 2014: A judge in Sweden upholds the arrest warrant against him that alleges sexual offenses against two women.
- March 2015: Swedish prosecutors ask to question Assange at the Ecuadorian Embassy.
- August 2015: Swedish prosecutors drop investigations into some allegations against Assange because of the statute of limitations; an investigation into a rape allegation remains active.
- October 2015: Metropolitan Police end their 24-hour guard outside the Ecuadorian Embassy but say they'll arrest Assange if he leaves, ending a three-year police operation estimated to have cost millions.
- February 2016: Assange claims "total vindication" as the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention finds that he has been unlawfully detained and recommends he be immediately freed and given compensation. Britain calls the finding "frankly ridiculous."
- September 2018: Ecuador's president says his country and Britain are working on a legal solution to allow Assange to leave the embassy.
- October 2018: Assange seeks a court injunction pressing Ecuador to provide him basic rights he said the country agreed to when it first granted him asylum.
- November 2018: A U.S. court filing that appears to inadvertently reveal the existence of a sealed criminal case against Assange is discovered by a researcher. No details are confirmed.
- April 2019: Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno blames WikiLeaks for recent corruption allegations; Ecuador's government revokes Assange's asylum status. London police haul Assange out of the Ecuadorian Embassy and arrest him for breaching bail conditions in 2012, as well as on behalf of U.S. authorities.
- May 2019: Assange is sentenced to 50 weeks in prison for jumping bail in 2012.
- May 2019: The U.S. government indicts Assange on 18 charges over WikiLeaks' publication of classified documents. Prosecutors say he conspired with U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to hack into a Pentagon computer and release secret diplomatic cables and military files on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- November 2019: Swedish prosecutor drops rape investigation.
- May 2020: An extradition hearing for Assange is delayed during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- June 2020: The U.S. files a new indictment against Assange that prosecutors say underscores Assange's efforts to procure and release classified information.
- January 2021: A British judge rules Assange cannot be extradited to the U.S. because he is likely to kill himself if held under harsh U.S. prison conditions.
- July 2021: The High Court grants the U.S. government permission to appeal the lower court's ruling blocking Assange's extradition.
- December 2021: The High Court rules that U.S. assurances about Assange's detention are enough to guarantee he would be treated humanely.
- March 2022: Britain's Supreme Court refuses to grant Assange permission to appeal against his extradition.
- June 2022: Britain's government orders the extradition of Assange to the United States. Assange appeals.
- May 2023: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese says Assange should be released and "nothing is served" by his ongoing incarceration.
- June 2023: A High Court judge rules Assange cannot appeal his extradition.
- Feb. 20, 2024: Assange's lawyers launch a final legal bid to stop his extradition at the High Court.
- March 26, 2024: Two High Court judges in London give U.S. authorities three more weeks to submit further assurances, including a guarantee that Assange won't get the death penalty, before deciding whether they will grant him a new appeal against his extradition.
- May 20, 2024: The two High Court judges rule that Assange can mount a new appeal based on arguments about whether he will receive free-speech protections or be at a disadvantage because he is not a U.S. citizen. The date of the hearing has yet to be determined.
- June 26, 2024: Assange pleads guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defense information. The judge in the U.S. commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands sentences him to time served in the British prison and pronounces him a "free man." (AP)



## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
NMTech

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. The Northern Marianas Technical Institute proposes to construct **Five (5)** pre-engineered metal buildings for its Workforce Career Training Facility. This use is classified as a "Government Service" and is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot 005 I 608 in the village of Koblerville. This area is zoned as Public Resource.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** July 11, 2024  
**Time:** 2:00 pm  
**Place:** Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 10, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmizoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmizoning.com), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**Commonwealth Economic Development Authority**  
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147 | [www.developcnmi.com](http://www.developcnmi.com)



## INVITATION FOR BIDS

### 2024-CEDA-08-IFB

CLOSING DATE: Friday, July 12, 2024    TIME: 10:00 a.m.

**"OFFICE SPACE FOR COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) IN ROTA"**

A copy of the bid may be picked up at the CEDA Office at 2390 Beach Road Olleai, Unit 205, Saipan, or at CEDA Rota Office at the Tamara & 7 Brothers Bldg., Songsong Village during regular business hours (7:30 am to 4:30 pm) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. The bid may also be obtained on our website at [www.developcnmi.com](http://www.developcnmi.com).

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN  
Executive Director

/s/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.  
Acting Director, Procurement Services



# Equitable fishing access, sustainable practices to be addressed at Council meeting



**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—As the U.S. exclusive economic zone available to fishing continues to shrink due to federal regulations, foreign fishing presence increases and Pacific Islands bear the brunt of American conservation efforts, justice has seemingly turned into “just us.” Ninety percent of the Biden Administration’s mandate to conserve 30% of the ocean by 2030 is supported by closures in the U.S. Pacific.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will address equitable access, fair treatment of fishing communities and preservation of sustainable fishing at its meeting June 24-26, 2024, in Honolulu.

The Council will receive updates on the proposed national marine sanctuaries in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific Remote Island Areas. NOAA held public hearings on the NWHI sanctuary draft Environmental Impact Statement throughout the State of Hawaii in April. Council representatives attended to answer questions on its recommendations for fishing regulations, and submitted written comments to NOAA in May. For the PRIA sanctuary, after a flurry of activity at the end of 2023, including the Council’s recommendation that no additional fishing regulations were needed, there has not been much movement beyond potential renaming.

The Council will also discuss seafood trade and strategies to level the playing field between foreign and domestic fisheries in the marketplace. Earlier this week, Council staff, the Hawaii Longline Association and Hawaii market representatives met with the NOAA International Affairs, Trade and Commerce Division and also with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. These meetings were to strategize ways to improve seafood import monitoring and reduce the flow of foreign products undercutting U.S. fishery products, specif-

ically for tuna, into local and nationwide markets. Pacific Island tuna fishery representatives are concerned with heavily subsidized foreign fisheries ‘dumping’ cheaper products into the U.S. market.

## Action items

The Council will consider annual catch limits and accountability measures for the main Hawaiian Islands deep-sea bottomfish complex for 2024-2027. Members will take into account reports on the uncertainties and risk of overfishing, and advice from its Scientific and Statistical Committee. The fishery is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing, with 2023 landings reaching less than half of the current ACL of 492,000 pounds.

The Council will also review and comment on the American Samoa Marine Conservation Plan for implementation in August 2024. Key updates include developing a tuna policy to address declining albacore catch rates and restrictive federal regulations impacting U.S.-flagged vessels. The MCP also proposes creating a fishermen registry to track fishing efforts and assist with economic or disaster relief. According to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Council must validate that the projects are consistent with its Fishery Ecosystem Plans and will not affect the sustainability of fisheries in the area.

## Other agenda items

The Council will also discuss how fisheries in the Western Pacific region performed in 2023 relative to previous years. The Annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Reports will be presented to the Council with highlights of catch and effort trends, economic indicators and climate considerations. For example, despite decreases in commercial licenses and trips, the Hawai’i bottomfish fishery had its highest catch since 2018. In American Samoa, longline sets continued a decreasing

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/  
File photo of a Hawaii reef fish display at Pier 38 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

trend to an all-time low, but had an increase in trolling.

## Fishers forum

As part of its 199th meeting, the Council will host a free, family friendly Fishers Forum June 24, 2024, from 6 to 9 p.m. with the theme “Where are the fish going?” Attendees will learn how climate change is affecting the ocean and fish populations across the Pacific and closer to Hawai’i, and

what that means for fishermen. Fishing community leaders like Roy Morioka and Carl Jellings will share important observations on weather, seas, markets and operations.

The Council meeting and Fishers Forum will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Ballroom, 410 Atkinson Drive in Honolulu. For more information, visit [www.wpcouncil.org/event/199th-council-meeting](http://www.wpcouncil.org/event/199th-council-meeting). Remote participation for the Council meeting is available via Webex at <https://tinyurl.com/199CouncilMtg>. (PR)

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Attorney for Administrator Patrick J. Rodeo

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF: ] Civil Action  
THE ESTATE OF: ] No.: 22-0155-CV  
CYNTHIA SALAS ]  
RODEO, ]  
Decedent. ]

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Administrator Patrick J. Rodeo for the Decree of Final Distribution in this case will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 18th day of July, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated 19th this day of June, 2024.

/s/  
Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO  
Associate Judge

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF: ] Civil Action  
OF THE ESTATE OF: ] No.: 21-0140  
THOMAS MASGA ]  
MENDIOLA, ]  
Decedent. ]

TO: ALL HEIRS OF THOMAS MASGA MENDIOLA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Motion to Reopen Probate in the above-entitled probate matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 18th day of July, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMI Superior Court Courtroom 220A, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the motion should not be granted.

Dated this 5th day of June, 2024.

/s/  
Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO  
Associate Judge

Name of Petitioner:  
PROSERPHINA A. ANTIPORDA  
Mailing Address:  
P.O. BOX 1231 ROTA, MP 96951  
Telephone No.: 670-532-2539

Pro Se

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of: ] FCD-AD CIVIL  
the Petition for the ]  
Adoption of: ] ACTION NO. 24-0199R

(Child's New Name )  
- INITIALS ONLY ) NOTICE OF HEARING  
P.G.L.M. ]  
Minor Child ]

By: ]  
PROSERPHINA A. ]  
ANTIPORDA ]  
Petitioner ]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 2, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Courtroom Rota, before Associate Judge Lillian A. Tenorio.

Dated this 16th day of May, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court  
/s/  
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Joey P. San Nicolas  
Attorney-at-Law  
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC  
3813 Mestisa Ave. Dandan Village  
P.O. Box 505335  
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Tel: (670) 288-1073  
Cell: (670) 287-1973  
Email: [jpsn@sannicolaslawn.net](mailto:jpsn@sannicolaslawn.net)

Attorney for Administratrix Salomae H. Calvo

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF: ] Civil Action No.:  
THE ESTATE OF: ] 23-0069-CV  
VINCENT MENDIOLA ]  
CALVO, ]  
Decedent. ]

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Administratrix Salomae H. Calvo for the Decree of Final Distribution in this case will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 18th day of July, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2024.

/s/  
Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO  
Associate Judge



## Commonwealth Zoning Board Board Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2024 | 2:00 PM  
Multi-Purpose Center • Susupe, Saipan  
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666  
E-mail: [ZoningBoard@cnmzoning.com](mailto:ZoningBoard@cnmzoning.com)



## AGENDA

### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 07/11/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 06/06/24 Meeting Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

### B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2024-1746** –The Northern Marian as Technical Institute (NMTech) proposes to construct five (5) pre-engineered metal buildings for its Workforce Career Training Facility. This use is classified as a “Government Service” and is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot 005 I 608 in the village of Koblerville. This area is zoned as Public Resource

### C. Old Business

1. To impose requirements on Rezone process – Board Resolution (Expiration date to commence development after adoption of Rezone applications by the Commonwealth Zoning Board and the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation)
2. Parking regulations in Garapan Core (GC), Garapan East (GE), Village Commercial (VC), and other zoning districts – Board Resolution

### D. New Business

1. None

### E. Report from Zoning Administrator

1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Office Updates
  - a. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations for public comments
  - b. Proposed Text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 for public comments
  - c. Status update on Board Resolution No. 2023-12-04: Ground signs
  - d. Public Nuisance campaign – dilapidated/ unsafe structures and fencing, junk cars, trash bins, etc.

### F. Report from Legal Counsel

### G. Executive Session

### H. Announcements

### I. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman



Opinion

Hafa Adai!  
**Saipan Tribune**  
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MEMBER

**AP** The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mr. Putin goes to  
Pyongyang and we  
don't like that show

Peter Morgan's play "Patriots," which ended its Broadway run Sunday, tells the backstory of the rise of Russian President Vladimir Putin. The author of "The Crown" sees the story as the arrogant folly of post-glasnost Russian oligarchs such as Boris Berezovsky who had laughed at drunken old Boris Yeltsin and thought they were installing in his place a benign apparatchik they could trust to do their bidding.

Alas for those making billions from formerly state-owned utilities, their obscure deputy mayor of St. Petersburg proved to be an unreconstructed thug who embraced the old Soviet ways of murder and show trials for innocent Western journalists such as Evan Gershkovich and who rose up to poison his benefactors.

In some cases, literally.

The play, which attracted plenty of Russian emigres but did not do especially well at the box office, was a reminder of how little most Americans know or care about the conditions that created Putin. Therefore, they fail to understand the concern, and surprise, that some older people felt seeing Putin waltzing around the other day with North Korean President Kim Jong Un, whom he has threatened to arm, should Ukraine get more of the kind of international military support Putin does not like.

What a nauseating spectacle occurred Wednesday in Pyongyang as simpering sycophants presented the ruthless Russian with flowers and other gifts while Kim, famous for his nuclear and missile-lobbing ambitions, lined up his military forces for Vlad to inspect. This was a long way from "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." This was Soviet Cold War maneuvering, redux. And more than enough to make us shiver.

This Putin-Kim pact, if that is the right word, threatens the balance of power and stability in Asia, understandably causing heartburn in Seoul and Tokyo. And of course, it reflects the new American-European weakness on the global stage. Kim, who has shown himself to be unstable, is a threat to the U.S., and this palpable new closeness with Putin's Russia only compounds the worry. China was hard to read on the matter, which no doubt was exactly what Beijing had in mind.

America, of course, is distracted by an election and internal tribalism and hardly is offering us ideal presidential candidates to deal with the future affairs of Putin and Kim, never mind their other potential new friends. We will all need to start paying closer attention and trying to better understand contemporary Russian events.

If you were alive for the end of the Soviet era and the joyous freedoms then celebrated in Ukraine, the Republic of Georgia and elsewhere, think back to where you thought we would be a generation later.

We bet you expected to see tourists flocking to St. Petersburg, McDonald's thriving in Moscow, and Ukrainians worrying about soccer, not Russian tanks. We know we did.

But that is not at all where we find ourselves. Instead we're watching a movie called "Mr. Putin goes to North Korea" and worrying about what the sequel might be.

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NOW CONSIDERED a "THREAT TO DEMOCRACY"



Only Clarence Thomas is willing to  
give a gun to a domestic abuser

Gun rights are not unlimited according to an 8-1 Supreme Court decision that draws back from the extreme Second Amendment decision the court made two years ago in the notorious Bruen case. The holding in the new case, United States v. Rahimi, is that the government may bar people subject to domestic violence restraining orders from owning guns.

But the real significance of the case lies in the way the court's conservatives splintered over the "history and tradition" approach that Justice Clarence Thomas used in Bruen. In that case, he wrote the opinion. In this one, Thomas found himself the lone dissenter.

The court remains committed to its conservative constitutional revolution; but in the gun context, at least, it is now pulling back from the brink of absurdity.

Rahimi's case arose solely because of the Bruen precedent. Even though Zackey Rahimi was subject to a restraining order for domestic violence, the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit said he couldn't be punished for owning a gun—a violation of a federal statute that says people subject to domestic violence restraining orders cannot own firearms. The Fifth Circuit's argument was that the US has no history or tradition of denying gun rights to domestic abusers. In his dissent, Thomas said the Fifth Circuit got it right.

The narrow opinion by Chief Justice John Roberts substantially weakened Bruen. Roberts analogized denying the gun law at issue in Rahimi to two historical types of weapons regulations. One type were so-called "surety" laws, which said that people who were suspected of being dangerous needed to provide what were effectively cash bonds if they were going to carry weapons. If they used the weapons wrongfully, they lost their money. The other type of law treated as an analogue by Roberts is called a "going armed" law. Such laws prohibited "going armed, with dangerous and unusual weapons, to terrify the people of the land."

In theory, the Roberts opinion just applies the Bruen rule, which says there must be history and tradition to support a gun regulation. In practice, it shows that when the justices want to allow gun regulation, they will. The truth is that analogies are highly malleable. The New York concealed carry law struck down in Bruen could easily have been analogized to the "going armed" laws, since open carry can be a means of terrifying the people of the land, or at least the subway. (The court's three liberals, in their concurrences, all said the Bruen history and tradition test was wrong from the outset.)

In light of the obvious pullback from Bruen—and intense criticism of "history and tradition" as a judicial methodology—the three Trump-appointed conservatives all wrote individual

By **NOAH FELDMAN**  
Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of "To Be a Jew Today: A New Guide to God, Israel, and the Jewish People."



concurrences. None joined any of the others', a stark sign of division. All set out to clarify their own theories of how to interpret not just the Second Amendment but the Constitution as a whole. And they differ.

Gorsuch, the leading proponent of literalist textualism when it comes to interpreting statutes, brought a variant of his textualism to the Constitution. He said, essentially, that history only matters to ascertain the meaning of the Second Amendment's text because the amendment enshrined into law a "preexisting" right of the people. Pre-ratification history tells you what that right was. History serves the text, which is primary.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote a lengthy disquisition on interpreting "vague" constitutional text. What you need to know is that, to Kavanaugh, it's all vague—including the pretty clear language of the Second and even First Amendments. Kavanaugh insisted that judges must follow "history, not policy" in interpreting vague constitutional provisions. That history can come from before the ratification of the relevant constitutional text or after. In essence, the judges are trying to get a gestalt sense of what the vague text means, and they need to look backwards to do it, eschewing (magically) their own policy preferences. Oh, and they can consider precedent, too.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett's concurrence acidly referred back to her concurrence in Bruen, in which she effectively warned that "history and tradition" was unmoored from classic originalism because it went too far back and too far forward. Barrett skewered "tradition," saying (for the second time this term) that "tradition unmoored from original meaning is not binding law." And she expressly restricted relevant history to the period immediately before the ratification of a constitutional provision—an attack on the back-to-the-Middle Ages approach Thomas took in Bruen.

Barrett isn't a Gorsuch literalist, however. She accepts, as does Kavanaugh, that vague constitutional provisions can be "liquidated" by history, which is James Madison-speak for the idea that historical practice after ratification can give meaning to a

See ABUSER on Page 7

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Ukraine's head of military intelligence is behind Kyiv's biggest victories this year. He sees no point in peace talks

**KYIV, Ukraine**—There have been at least 10 Kremlin attempts to kill one of Ukraine's most admired heroes, the legendary head of military intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov.

Russian agents have blown up his car. They even poisoned his wife.

She survived. He pledged revenge.

When I met the spy chief in his darkened office recently, during a rare interview with a foreign journalist, I asked whether the Russians are still trying to kill him. The poker-faced Budanov shrugged. "It's normal," he said.

Then, allowing himself a half-smile, the lieutenant general added: "Let's put it this way: Since we are talking with you now, it means they are not succeeding."

There are good reasons why the Kremlin will continue to try.

Budanov's spy agency, known as HUR, has carried out some of Ukraine's most stunning military successes, including long-range drone strikes inside Russian territory. Meanwhile, the agency's Magura sea drones — a game-changing Ukrainian invention — have helped push most of the Russian fleet out of its main Black Sea harbor in occupied Crimea and back to ports on the Russian mainland.

These gains are probably Ukraine's most important victories in the last year — and could lead to more surprising maritime successes to offset the stalemate on land.

HUR headquarters is located on an isolated peninsula that juts into the Dnieper River. Inside a grim, gray, low-rise block, Budanov's office is barely lit. He prefers to operate in the shadows — in military operations as well as at his desk.

Behind that book- and paper-laden desk hangs a large painting of an owl sinking its claws into a bat. The HUR adopted the owl as its symbol in 2016, two years after Moscow invaded Crimea, to troll the Russians. The bat is the symbol of the special operations unit of Russia's military intelligence agency.

On a nearby table, a set of polished metal chess pieces shines through the gloom, as if to warn that Budanov is poised to out-strategize Moscow.

Appointed to his post four years ago, the 38-year-old spymaster has been known to lead his men on daring raids into enemy territory. "He is a pirate who loves operations," an admirer told me. He is also famous for his tight lips.

But in our interview, Budanov spoke openly about the need to expand drone attacks inside Russia and to make it impossible for Moscow to hold on to Crimea. And he was frank about the challenges Ukraine faces—including the continued need for U.S. weapons and the possibility of an election victory by Donald Trump.

## Striking back

Asked whether Ukrainian troops could stop the current Russian offensive in the east, where Moscow has been making small but steady territorial gains, Budanov spoke plainly.

"The good news is that no Armageddon will emerge," he told me. "The bad news is that the situation is quite difficult. It will remain like this for at least one month, and will not become easier."

Moscow is expected to pound Ukraine as hard as it can in the lead-up to the 75th anniversary NATO summit in mid-July in Washington, and before the U.S. delivers more of the artillery shells and other critical supplies that were held up by Congress.

The Kremlin has been trying since the war began to take control of the entire eastern Donbas region. "We will do everything possible to prevent them, and to minimize the Russian successes," Budanov said.

However, when I inquired whether Ukraine could hold one of the most hotly contested eastern towns, Chasiv Yar, which sits on high ground that bars a Russian advance across flatter steppes and toward large industrial cities, his reply was cryptic: "I will refrain from response."

When I subsequently traveled to the Chasiv Yar area, the situation did not look good, and there was great bitterness among the troops over the many lives lost because Ukraine ran out of artillery shells and other vital supplies while Congress dawdled over whether to provide additional military aid.

Now, more artillery shells are arriving slowly, from the U.S. and Europe. "For sure, weapons delivery is faster than it was

several months ago," Budanov allowed, "but Ukraine's needs are very high, which is why it has been strategically important for us to have the deliveries renewed. Still, there is a question of volume."

Manpower is also a critical problem for Ukraine, with Moscow prepared to grind its troops up like meat while much smaller Ukraine is anxious to preserve its soldiers.

Budanov believes the answer to Russia's superiority in manpower is battlefield technology, in which Ukraine has become a global leader, replacing humans on the battlefield whenever possible with new variants of drones and electronic warfare. "Technologies will have quite a significant meaning in this war," he predicted, "so that we don't fight the war until the last citizen's left."

Technology is key to one of Budanov's most intensive projects: taking the war to Russia with long-range drones.

"I am a fan of this," the intelligence chief said with an intensity that broke through his laconic style. "I have been advocating this since the very first days of the war, saying openly that so long as the war is contained on our territory, it will not affect Russia."

"That is why since spring 2022, we have started to conduct significant operations on Russian territory, and we will go further the more resources we have for this. And Russia has started to feel it."

In other words, Vladimir Putin can no longer pretend to his people that this war doesn't affect them.

"It is still not critical for Russia at this stage, but it has led to the situation when the average citizen in the European part of the Russian Federation for sure knows and feels that the war is ongoing and has experienced some of the explosions himself. It influences, even on a small scale now, their morale."

Budanov later publicly confirmed that the night after my interview last week, Kyiv launched a swarm of at least 70 drones on Russia's Morozovsk airfield, located about 150 miles from the front lines and home to dozens of Moscow's vaunted Sukhoi Su-34 fighter bombers. HUR has also been involved in attacks by long-range Ukrainian Liutyi airplane drones that have destroyed dozens of Russian oil refineries.

A White House warning to Kyiv not to hit refineries makes no sense since they are a legitimate war target. These attacks may not turn the war around, the intel chief admitted, but he believes they can affect Russia's economy "and psychological state," which in turn "affects the military component." HUR has announced that it considers any Russian military target within a 500-mile range fair game.

## Shifting policy

I asked about the usefulness of President Joe Biden's shift in policy to allow U.S. weapons to be used to hit sources of Russian fire just across the border from the major city of Kharkiv.

"It will ease our lives," said Budanov, but he added that if Kyiv were permitted to use U.S. weaponry "to the whole so-called operational depth in Russia that we can reach, of course, it will be easier for us."

Budanov believes that the Crimean Peninsula — captured by Moscow in 2014 and turned into a huge military base that controls most of Ukraine's southern coast — can be cut off from resupply and forced into submission.

Gen. Ben Hodges, former commander of U.S. Army Europe, has long argued that this would be the key to putting Putin on the defensive. "I share the opinion of Gen. Hodges, absolutely," said the Ukrainian spy chief. "So we need to do everything to implement it."

HUR's Ukrainian-made Magura drones have already been used to destroy several Russian ships and force them to relocate from Crimea. "They are already trapped near Novorossiysk port," Budanov said. "We just need to make sure that all the remains of the fleet are pushed back to the territory of the Russian Federation. There have been no combat ships left in the Black Sea for a long time."

Next step is to cut all resupply for Russian forces in Crimea, including Putin's pet project, the Kerch Bridge.

Budanov has already been "arrested in absentia" by Moscow for his agency's role in seriously damaging the bridge in 2022, apparently with a truck bomb. He considers that an honor.

He believes that long-range ATACMS missiles, which Biden finally delivered to Ukraine in recent months, could ultimately

By **TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

*Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the The Philadelphia Inquirer.*



take out the bridge. Those who claim ATACMS aren't powerful enough to do the job are mistaken, he said. "They should read the technical manuals. The only question is their quantities, but principally speaking, these missiles will allow us to fulfill such a mission."

Budanov scoffs at the idea that Moscow would use tactical nuclear weapons if control of Crimea were threatened, a fear Putin constantly fans. The Ukrainian believes he understands Putin's mindset and limitations.

"First of all, I know what is really happening out there. Secondly, I know the real characteristics of Russian nuclear weapons. What use would it have? We don't have big concentrations of troops for which such nuclear weapons would be appropriate."

"And to break holes in our defense lines is possible with conventional means of warfare. Besides, using nuclear weapons would lead to big political risks for Putin."

I would add that Putin's redlines on Crimea have been crossed many times when Ukraine fired British missiles at bases there, and nothing has happened. If there is any chance to convince Putin he can't win, it may lie with making Moscow's hold on Crimea untenable.

As for Budanov, he sees no point in peace talks, because "we have no option but to get back what was occupied. Otherwise, the state of war will go on forever."

A bigger problem may be Trump, who keeps repeating he would cut off military aid to Ukraine if reelected. Budanov remains sanguine at the prospect of a Trump win in November.

"I have a calm attitude to the possibility of Trump coming to power," he said. "Your elections are very unpredictable. If you analyze his public speeches, he has changed his position several times. And the power of your system is that it doesn't allow one individual to make decisions unilaterally."

"In the end, I believe in the USA and that we will reach victory together. And here I am stressing, together! This is what I would like to finish with."

Indeed, as Ukrainian officials are starting to hedge their bets about a Trump win, I can't help thinking that Budanov might be one Ukrainian who could appeal to Trump as a derring-do military figure who "wins" and can show exciting video of the new style of drone warfare.

Before I left, I asked Budanov: If I come back in a year, will things be better?

"I will refrain from replying," he said. "This is a very philosophical question."

His reply reminded me of the famous social media video in which he stares at the camera in silence for 32 seconds. Then, three words flash on the screen in Ukrainian: To be continued.

## ABUSER

From page 6

vague provision. This admission is in fact a devastating blow to originalism, which is why Gorsuch won't make it. But Barrett is too smart not to make the concession. She's also astute enough to realize it won't shake the established dogma of originalism too much.

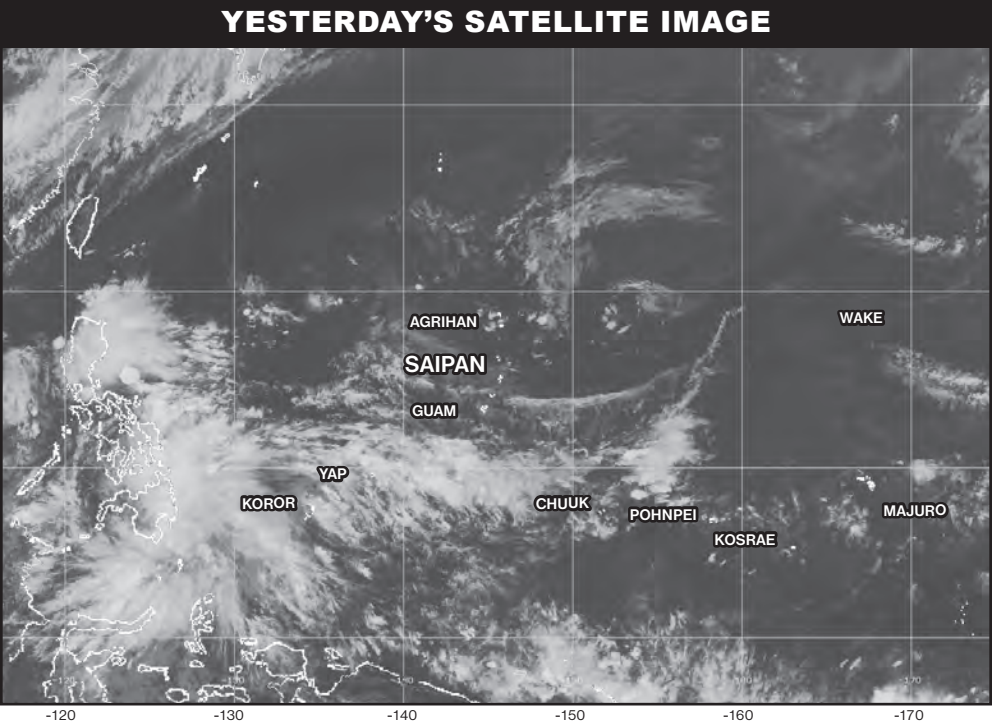
The upshot is that the new generation of conservatives realizes they went too far in Bruen and that "history and tradition" is a land mine. Their efforts to figure out what to do next will shape the future of Second Amendment law—and much, much more.

(Everytown for Gun Safety, which advocates gun-safety measures, is backed by Michael Bloomberg, founder and majority owner of Bloomberg LP.)



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 7:18 AM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly sunny skies this morning over the Marianas Waters, mostly from mid and high clouds, looks like only isolated showers moving through. The Ritidian buoy reveals combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed mainly of 4 to 6 foot swells combined with wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:36 AM	11:20 PM
Friday	-	11:32 AM	-
Saturday	12:00 AM	12:28 PM	-
Sunday	12:40 AM	1:24 PM	-
Monday	1:22 AM	2:21 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	59° / 48°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Sunny	86° / 75°	
London	Rain	73° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	76° / 59°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	61° / 52°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°	
Osaka	Rain	75° / 68°	
Paris	Thunderstorm	70° / 57°	
Busan	Rain	72° / 66°	
Rome	Thunderstorm	79° / 61°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	83° / 64°	
San Francisco	Sunny	69° / 52°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	81° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Showers	76° / 66°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:21 AM	High Tide	2.16	
6:09 AM	Low Tide	1.37	
10:38 AM	High Tide	1.91	
5:53 PM	Low Tide	0.11	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
				7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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# Assange sentenced for conspiring to obtain, disclose classified nat'l defense information

Julian P. Assange, 52, the founder of WikiLeaks, pleaded guilty yesterday to conspiring with Chelsea Manning, at that time a U.S. Army intelligence analyst, to unlawfully obtain and disclose classified documents relating to the national defense. After obtaining classified national defense information from Manning, and aware of the harm that dissemination of such national defense information would cause, Assange disclosed this information on WikiLeaks.

The guilty plea concludes a criminal matter that dates back to March 2018, when Assange was first indicted in the Eastern District of Virginia. There, and in superseding indictments, Assange was charged with conspiring with Manning, then a "Top Secret" U.S. security clearance holder, to further Manning's unlawful acquisition and transmission of bulk classified information, including Manning's use of a government computer to illegally download hundreds of thousands of classified documents and transmit them without authorization to WikiLeaks.

Assange was detained in the United Kingdom based on the U.S. charges for the last 62 months, while he con-

tested extradition. As part of the plea agreement, Assange was transported to the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands to enter his felony guilty plea and be sentenced on the morning of June 26 (Saipan local time) in a U.S. courtroom, with the venue reflecting Assange's opposition to traveling to the continental United States to enter his guilty plea and the proximity of this federal U.S. District Court to Assange's country of citizenship, Australia, to which he will return. At today's proceeding, Assange admitted to his role in the conspiracy to violate the Espionage Act and received a court-imposed 62-month time-served sentence, reflecting the time he served in U.K. prison as a result of the U.S. charges. Following the imposition of sentence, he will depart the United States for his native Australia. Pursuant to the plea agreement, Assange is prohibited from returning to the United States without permission.

Beginning in late 2009, Assange and WikiLeaks actively solicited United States classified information, including by publishing a list of "Most Wanted Leaks" that sought, among other things, bulk classified documents. As set forth in the public



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, right, arrives, surrounded by the media, at the United States courthouse where he is expected to enter a plea deal, on Saipan, Mariana Islands, Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

charging documents, Assange actively solicited and recruited people who had access, authorized or otherwise, to classified information and were willing to provide that information to him and WikiLeaks—and also solicited hackers who could obtain unauthorized access to classified information through computer network intrusions. Assange publicly encouraged his prospective recruits to obtain the information he desired by any

means necessary, including hacking and theft, and to send that information to Assange at WikiLeaks.

Between January 2010 and May 2010, in the course of the conspiracy with Assange, Manning used U.S. government computer systems to download hundreds of thousands of documents and reports, many of them classified at the SECRET level and relating to the national defense, which signified that unauthorized disclosure could cause serious damage to United States national security. In total, Manning downloaded four nearly complete U.S. government databases that contained, among other things, approximately 90,000 Afghanistan war-related significant activity reports, 400,000 Iraq war-related significant activity reports, 800 JTF GTMO detainee assessment briefs, classified up to the Secret level; and 250,000 U.S. Department of State cables. Manning also downloaded files regarding rules of engagement in the Iraq war, most of which were classified at the SECRET level and which delineated the circumstances and limitations under which United States forces would initiate or conduct combat engagement with other forces.

After downloading digital reams of classified documents and files, Manning electronically sent them to Assange to be publicly posted on WikiLeaks's website. During Manning's bulk exfiltration and passage of classified materials to WikiLeaks, Manning and Assange communicated regularly via online platforms about Manning's progress and what classified information Assange wanted. For example, after sending the classified

JTF GTMO detainee assessment briefs to Assange, Manning told Assange "that's [sic] all I really have got left." To encourage Manning to continue to take classified documents from the United States and provide them to Assange and WikiLeaks without authorization, Assange replied, "curious eyes never run dry in my experience."

In or about 2010 and 2011, Assange publicly disclosed via the WikiLeaks website hundreds of thousands of documents that Manning had taken without authorization and given to him, including approximately 75,000 Afghanistan war-related significant activity reports, classified up to the Secret level; 400,000 Iraq war-related significant activity reports, classified up to the Secret level; 800 JTF GTMO detainee assessment briefs, classified up to the Secret level; and over 100,000 State Department cables, some of which were classified up to the Secret level.

Unlike news organizations that published redacted versions of some of the classified documents that Assange obtained from Manning and then shared with those organizations, Assange and WikiLeaks disclosed many of the raw classified documents without removing any personally identifying information. Specifically, in many instances, the classified documents Manning unlawfully provided to Assange were later released publicly by Assange and WikiLeaks in a raw or unredacted form that placed individuals who had assisted the U.S. government at great personal risk. Assange's decision to reveal the names of human sources illegally shared with him by Manning created a grave and imminent risk to

human life. For example, the State Department cables that WikiLeaks disseminated included information from journalists, religious leaders, human rights advocates, and political dissidents who had chosen to provide information to the United States in confidence at significant risk to their own safety. By publicly releasing these documents without redacting the names of human sources or other identifying information, Assange subjected these individuals to serious harm and arbitrary detention. Assange even acknowledged in public statements that he knew that publicly disclosing unredacted classified documents containing the names and other identifying information of people who had shared information with the U.S. government in confidence could put those people at risk of harm.

The FBI Washington Field Office investigated the case. The Justice Department's Office of International Affairs provided significant assistance in securing Assange's arrest and in litigating Assange's extradition. The United Kingdom's Crown Prosecution Service, National Extradition Unit (and its predecessor in the Metropolitan Police Service), and Central Authority also provided significant assistance to the extradition proceedings over the past five years. Logistical support was also provided by the United Kingdom's National Crime Agency's Joint International Crime Centre, U.K. law enforcement agencies, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The National Security Division's Counterintelligence and Export Control Section (CES), U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), and U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia handled the case. U.S. Attorney Shawn N. Anderson for the District of Guam and NMI, CES Deputy Chief Matthew McKenzie, and National Security Cyber Section Trial Attorney Jacques Singer-Emery represented the United States in the NMI proceedings. CES Trial Attorneys Nicholas Hunter and Adam Small, and Trial Attorney Rachel Yasser and Legal Advisor/International Affairs Coordinator Amanda June Chadwick of the Justice Department's Office of International Affairs also provided substantial assistance. (PR)

## Radewagen pays respects to memory of Taylor Tuli Wily

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) visited some of the family of Taylor Teila Tuli Wily to pay her respects and pay tribute to his memory, and is sending condolences to all who knew and loved him.

"Taylor Tuli Wily was a charming, kind, and fun-loving man, who stayed true to his roots, and valued his American Samoa heritage," said Radewagen. "His successes in athletics and acting brought pride to many of us throughout the Pacific and especially those of us in Polynesian cultures. I had the wonderful privilege to meet him and see him on the set of one of his Hawaii-based shows. He brought joy to his audiences on screen and to his countless friends off screen."

Born in Honolulu on June 14, 1968, Wily played tackle in high school and semi-pro football in Hawaii, then had a successful career in sumo wrestling with a strong winning record. He went undefeated for his first 14 bouts and two tournament championships, before being promoted to the third highest



Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) with Taylor Tuli Wily on the set of *Hawaii Five-O*.

division where he became the first foreign-born wrestler to win that division, and then continue to compete at the next level up, retiring from sumo in 1989.

Wily's first appearance as an actor was in 1982 on *Magnum, P.I.*, before numerous movie parts and recurring roles on the television series *Hawaii Five-O*, where he played Kamekona Tupuola for 171 episodes over 10 years. His character was so loved that he also became a recurring character on the reboots of both *Magnum, P.I.* and *MacGyver*. Other shows

he acted in are *North Shore* and *One West Waikiki*, and notably, the hit movie *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*.

Many of his co-stars posted condolences and were quoted in news reports of their fond memories of him, recurringly describing him as kind and gentle, including that he was known to visit children in Shriners' Children's Hospital Hawaii. Wily passed away on June 20, 2024, age 56, in Hurricane, Hawaii. He is survived by his wife and two children, a son and a daughter. (PR)



# Nation

## Poll: Most Americans plan to watch Biden-Trump debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Most U.S. adults plan to watch some element of Thursday's presidential debate and many think the event will be important for the campaigns of both President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Both men remain broadly unpopular as they prepare to face off for the first time since 2020, although Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, maintains a modest enthusiasm advantage with his base compared to Biden, the Democratic incumbent.

About 6 in 10 U.S. adults say they are "extremely" or "very" likely to watch the debate live or in clips, or read about or listen to commentary about the performance of the candidates in the news or social media.

The poll suggests tens of millions of Americans are likely to

see or hear about at least part of Thursday's debate despite how unusually early it comes in the campaign season. Both Biden and Trump supporters view the debate as a major test for their candidate—or just a spectacle not to miss.

"I think it's super important," said Victoria Perdomo, a 44-year-old stay-at-home mom and a Trump supporter in Coral Springs, Florida. "It shows America what you're going to see for the next four years."

Nic Greene, a libertarian who is a registered independent, said he'll likely vote for Trump as the "least worst candidate." He doesn't think debates do much to help voters make decisions, but he's expecting to be entertained and plans to listen to post-debate analysis on podcasts.

"I think the majority of people have their minds made up with or without these debates," he said. "It's a circus."

About half, 47%, of Americans say the debate is "extreme-

ly" or "very" important for the success of Biden's campaign and about 4 in 10 say it's highly important for Trump's campaign. About 3 in 10 Americans say it is at least "very" important for both campaigns.

Most Democrats, 55%, think the upcoming debate is extremely or very important for the success of the Biden campaign. About half of Republicans, 51%, say the same thing about the importance of the debate for the Trump campaign. Only about one-third of independents say the debate is highly important for either campaign.

Arthur Morris, a 40-year-old operations manager at a major financial firm, is an undecided voter open to Biden, Trump or a third-party option such as independent candidate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. He, along with a significant share of Americans, has doubts about the mental capabilities of the aging candidates, and sees Biden's debate performance as an important test.

# World

## Russia keeps up pressure on the front line

» As Ukraine gets a boost from Western military aid

**DONETSK REGION, Ukraine** (AP)—Relentless Russian attacks on Ukrainian positions defending the strategically important eastern town of Chasiv Yar are disrupting troop rotations and the delivery of some supplies, soldiers in the area say.

Russian troops are seeking to press their advantage in troop numbers and weaponry before Ukrainian forces are bulked up by promised new Western military aid that is already trickling to the front line, analysts say.

The Kremlin's military has been hitting civilian targets just as hard, using powerful glide bombs that obliterate buildings and leave huge craters. Its monthslong campaign to cripple Ukraine's electricity supply aims to sap public morale and deny energy to Ukraine's burgeon-



Ukrainian soldiers, of 43rd artillery brigade, fire by 2s7 self-propelled howitzer towards Russian positions at the frontline in Donetsk region, Ukraine, Monday, June 24, 2024.

ing arms industry.

Attacks on such civilian targets brought arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court on Tuesday for former Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and military chief of staff Gen. Valery Gerasimov for alleged war crimes. Judges said there is evidence they "intentionally caused great suffering or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health" of Ukrainian civilians.

For Ukrainian soldiers defending the eastern Donetsk region, the Russian ground assaults and aerial barrages allow little respite after more

than two years of war.

"We work, you could say, without rest," said a platoon commander who, in line with his brigade's rules, identified himself only by his first name, Oleksandr.

"So no two days are alike. You always need to be ready to work day and night," he told The Associated Press on Monday.

His platoon is part of Ukraine's 43rd Artillery Brigade. It dashes to positions and without delay fires a Soviet-era Pion self-propelled howitzer at Russian positions before it can be targeted itself.

## As Iran's presidential vote looms, tensions boil over renewed headscarf crackdown

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Seemingly every afternoon in Iran's capital, police vans rush to major Tehran squares and intersections to search for women with loose headscarves and those who dare not to wear them at all.

The renewed crackdown comes not quite two years since mass protests over the death of Mahsa Amini after she was detained for not wearing a scarf to the authorities' liking. A United Nations panel has found that the 22-year-old died as a result of "physical violence" wrought upon her by the state.

Amini's death set off months of unrest that ended in a bloody crackdown, and for a time morality police disappeared from the streets. But now videos are emerging of women being physically forced into vans by police as lawmakers continue to push for harsher penalties. Meanwhile, authorities have seized thousands of cars over women having their hair uncovered while also targeting businesses that serve them.

The renewed hijab push,

which police are calling the Noor—or "Light"—Plan, began before President Ebrahim Raisi died in a helicopter crash, and whoever wins a vote to replace the hard-line cleric on Friday will have an influence over just how intense it becomes—and how Iran responds to any further unrest.

"An intervention ... under the Noor Plan will take us into darkness," reformist presidential candidate Masoud Pezeshkian recently told a group of female supporters.

Enforcement began ramping up in April, with videos spreading online showing women having violent encounters with female enforcers dressed in the all-encompassing black chador alongside uniformed police officers.

While police haven't published arrest numbers about the crackdown and media haven't given it major attention, it's widely discussed in Iran. But still, many women continue to wear their hijabs loosely or leave them draped around their shoulders while walking in Tehran.

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# Life & Style

## Hillary to release essay collection about personal and public life

### How Oliver Platt moonlights on 'The Bear,' while still clocking in at 'Chicago Med'

LONDON (AP)—Timing is everything.

After nine years as Dr. Daniel Charles on NBC's "Chicago Med," Oliver Platt decided to flex his acting muscles, asking his agent if there was someone else he could play for a bit.

The first offer that came in? Uncle Jimmy in "The Bear."

This was before FX's hot kitchen comedy-drama had been on air and no one knew that Christopher Storer's show would go on to be an award-winning, star-making smash hit.

"I felt like a guest for about five minutes on 'The Bear,'" says Platt.

"Maybe that just makes me lucky or just makes me good at insinuating myself into a situation, I don't know."

And if anyone knows how to be a scene-stealing guest star, it's Platt.

Three times he's been in the running for an Emmy Award after making a special appearance on a TV series, notably "The West Wing" and "Nip/Tuck."

Platt's most recent guest star nomination was for playing the mysterious Uncle on "The Bear"—and he returned for seasons two and three as a fan.

"I didn't get to work in the kitchen the first season, I was so excited to meet them all," he says, noting that in

2022 his only scenes were with Jeremy White and Ebon Moss-Bachrach (Carmy and Cousin, respectively.)

"My first day back on the set in season two, it was actually in the restaurant in the kitchen. And I literally was starstruck. And that's a wonderful scenario."

Uncle Jimmy is back once again, on June 27, for the third season of "The Bear."

On set Platt is called "Unc" and in New York, where he lives, the actor gets the occasional "Yes Chef," as he walks past.

He says spending more time with the money man, also known as Cicero, in new episodes might reveal a bit more about who he is.

"It's so fun about the character in the way it's written. It's like you kind of never know what you're going to get like, the kindly, but mildly twisted father figure or the frickin' neighborhood dude who wants his money back?"

"What you see is not necessarily what you get," he says.

Both "The Bear" and "Chicago Med" are set and shot in Chicago so Platt was able to work on them in the same day—by walking the 200 yards between his two trailers.

"It's really fun," he says of pulling double duty. "It spices up the day," calling both shows "gifts" in his life.



Platt

Hillary Clinton's next book is a collection of essays, touching upon everything from marriage to politics to faith, that her publisher is calling her most personal yet.

Simon and Schuster announced Tuesday that Clinton's "Something Lost, Something Gained: Reflections on Life, Love and Liberty" will be released Sept. 17.

Among the topics she will cover: Her marriage to former President Bill Clinton, her Methodist faith, adjusting to private life after her failed presidential runs, her friend-

ships with other first ladies and her takes on climate change, democracy and Vladimir Putin.

"The book reads like you're sitting down with your smartest, funniest, most passionate friend over a long meal," Clinton's editor, Priscilla Painton, said in a statement.

"This is the Hillary Americans have come to know and love: candid, engaged, humorous, self-deprecating — and always learning."

Clinton, the former first lady, U.S. senator and secretary and presidential candidate, will promote her book with a cross country tour. "Something Lost, Some-



This cover image released by Simon & Schuster shows "Something Lost, Something Gained: Reflections on Life, Love and Liberty" by Hillary Rodham Clinton. The book will be released Sept. 17.

Financial terms were not disclosed. Clinton was represented by Washington attorney Robert Barnett, whose other clients have included former President George W. Bush and former President Barack Obama.

Clinton's previous books include such bestsellers as "It Takes a Village," "Living History" and "What Happened." (AP)

## Tennessee turns over probe into failed Graceland sale to federal authorities, report says

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The Tennessee attorney general's office said Tuesday that it has turned over its investigation into the failed sale of Elvis Presley's home Graceland at a foreclosure auction to federal authorities, a newspaper reported.

The Commercial Appeal reported that Amy Lannom Wilhite, a spokesperson for Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti, said in a statement that the investigation into the attempted foreclosure sale of the prominent tourist attraction "was a matter best suited for federal law enforcement."

"We have faith in our federal partners and know they will handle this appropriately," the statement said.

It was not immediately clear Tuesday which federal authorities would be investigating. Wilhite did not immediately return calls, texts and emails requesting the statement.

An FBI Memphis spokesperson said the FBI does not comment on the possibility or likelihood of investigations and he declined further comment.

Skrmetti said May 23 that he was investigating the attempted foreclosure sale of Graceland, Presley's former home-turned-museum in Memphis, where the King of Rock n' Roll lived before he died in 1977 at age 42.

The announcement came after the proposed auction was halted by an injunction issued by Shelby County Chancellor JoeDae Jenkins after Riley Keough, Presley's granddaughter, filed a lawsuit claiming fraud.

A public notice for a foreclosure sale of the 13-acre (5-hectare) estate posted in May said Promenade Trust, which controls the Graceland museum, owes \$3.8 million after failing to repay a 2018 loan. Keough, an actor, inherited the trust and

ownership of the home after the death of her mother, Lisa Marie Presley, last year.

Naussany Investments and Private Lending said Lisa Marie Presley had used Graceland as collateral for the loan, according to the foreclosure sale notice. Keough's lawsuit alleged that Naussany presented fraudulent documents regarding the loan in September 2023 and that Lisa Maria Presley never borrowed money from Naussany.

Court documents included company addresses in Jacksonville, Florida, and Hollister, Missouri. Both were for post offices, and a Kimberling City, Missouri, reference was for a post office box. The business also is not listed in state databases of registered corporations in Missouri or Florida.

Kimberly Philbrick, the notary whose name is listed on Naussany's documents, indicated she never met Lisa Ma-

rie Presley nor notarized any documents for her, according to the estate's lawsuit. Jenkins, the judge, said the notary's affidavit brings into question "the authenticity of the signature."

A search of online records for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority showed no registration for the company. No representatives of Naussany appeared in court, though the company filed an unsuccessful motion denying the lawsuit's allegations and opposing the estate's request for an injunction.

A statement emailed to The Associated Press after the judge stopped the sale said Naussany would not proceed because a key document in the case and the loan were recorded and obtained in a different state, meaning "legal action would have to be filed in multiple states." The statement, sent from an email address listed in court documents, did not specify the other state.

## Kind gesture by couple turns flat into friend's love nest

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I rented an apartment six weeks ago. A friend of his needed a place to stay due to some marital problems, so we decided she could stay with us. At the beginning, she offered us \$500, and we agreed to that. Abby, she hasn't paid us a dime. She has chipped in maybe \$30 for food.

She sleeps all day and sits in her room playing games on her phone all night. She demands we take her anywhere she needs to go, gives no help around the house and makes nasty comments about my boyfriend. (I just caught her looking at my phone to see what I am writing.)

We have tried explaining that I'm the only one paying the bills here and she seems to be freeloading. She even had her boyfriend here. I am on a fixed income, and I feel like she's taking advantage of the situation. Do you have any advice for me?

FEELS LIKE A FOOL

DEAR FEELS: Yes. The longer you tolerate this, the longer it will continue. Tell your boyfriend (if he doesn't already know) that his friend hasn't given you the agreed-upon \$500 and has made no effort to become self-supporting and independent.

If she's entertaining her boyfriend at your place, it's no wonder she was having "marital problems." Tell your boy-

friend you want his freeloading friend out of there. Then set a date for her to be out—unless he wants to support the two of them himself.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When my mother-in-law turned 75, her kids decided to throw her a surprise party. My two sisters-in-law and I offered to make the food, with one of them doing the shopping and the three of us splitting the cost and the work. We agreed upon a menu and hashed out a shopping list.

The party was a success. But when the grocery bill came, it was three times higher than I'd expected. Sister-in-law had bought only fancy-brand organic foods from a boutique store, expensive wine and way more than we needed.

Now, we're planning a party for the parents' anniversary. I said I'm happy to make food again, but I have to put a cap on the budget or be the one to do the shopping. This did not go over well. The family is taking turns making digs at me for being "cheap."

At what point do I say they need to be respectful or I'll bow out of the event altogether? I refuse to be shamed for holding the line on my budget or for making less money than they do, but I'm also not interested in giving them intimate details of my financial situation, which is none of their business.

Am I wrong to think that when I say I have to stick to a

## DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

budget, they should believe me? They think I'm being stingy.  
NO PARTY POOPER IN TEXAS

DEAR NO PARTY POOPER: Of course you are not wrong. Because you are reluctant to reveal exactly what your financial situation is (and you are within your rights to keep mum), the next time you are accused of being "cheap," simply respond that NOBODY has as much money as other people think they do. Period!

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

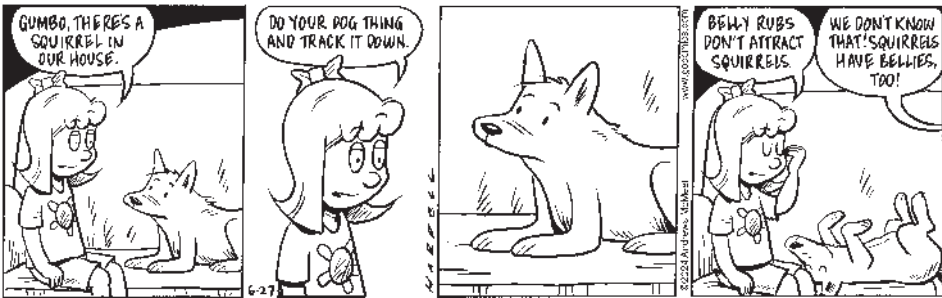


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 China setting

5 Sphere

8 Bar fight reminder

12 Behave

13 Itinerary word

14 Skater Lipinski

15 Teen fave

16 Very long time

17 "Exodus" author

18 Prom attendee

20 Take for ransom

22 "It's a-c-c-cold!"

23 Half of CIV

24 Blunders

27 Avid museum-goer

32 Luau souvenir

33 Greek cross

34 Bird (Pref.)

35 Supervisor

38 Grand — (four-run homer)

39 Moment

40 Petty peeve

42 Oracle setting

45 Texas city

49 Pianist

50 "The News-room" actor

52 Break-fast chain

53 "Dracula" heroine

54 Poetic tribute

55 Tide variety

56 Wild revelry

57 California's Big —

58 Fifth Avenue store

DOWN

1 Writer Kingsley

2 Faction

3 Privy to

4 Impro-vises

5 Judge too highly

6 Brazilian city

7 Teller's place

8 Small apartment

9 Fair

10 "Madama Butterfly" solo

11 Grate

19 Choice word?

21 Under the weather

24 "Strange Magic" gp.

25 Gun the engine

26 German wine

28 Singer Carly — Jepsen

29 Triangular pastry

30 Hollywood's Gabor

31 Crater edge

36 Sports-cast footage

37 Learning ctr.

38 Oktober-fest

41 Freudian concept

42 Trial version

43 Mideast ruler

44 Marriage vows

46 — butter

47 Drench

48 PC programs

51 Univ. URL ender

Solution time: 24 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 6-27

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ed Westwick, 37; Drake Bell, 38; Tobey Maguire, 49; J.J. Abrams, 58.

Happy Birthday: Don't stop short of your goal. Muster up the energy that will catapult you to the top. Use your ingenuity to mastermind how you want to proceed. Be creative and offer incentives to those you want to tag along on your journey. You will enjoy the company and the process of putting a dent in your bucket list. Love and romance, along with self-improvement, are favored. Your numbers are 6, 13, 20, 27, 33, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your thoughts to yourself and go about your business. Spending less time explaining will make it easier to get things done. Focus on what you can accomplish, and continue until you are satisfied with the results. Put your energy where it counts. \*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Devise a plan and follow through. Call on experts and contributors to coordinate your day accordingly. Communication and action will encourage others to pitch in and help. A positive change will lead to personal gratitude and pave the way to a better future. \*\*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Listen carefully, and you'll recognize the mixed messages you receive. Ask questions, mainly when money, directions or instructions apply. Communication can change how you proceed and how others perceive you. Leave nothing to chance and stick to facts. \*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't stop when building momentum will determine how far you travel. Embrace every opportunity to explore new territory, and harness and use your skills uniquely. Share your vi-

sion and enforce change to ensure you stand out and complete whatever you pursue. Romance is in the stars. \*\*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a wait-and-see approach, and you'll avoid a mistake that is difficult to reverse. Put your power where it counts, and reach out to those who share your sentiments and have something to offer. Observe, assess and reflect. Choose peace over chaos. \*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can have fun, get things done, and improve your lifestyle and routine without going overboard. Common sense, paying attention to detail and engaging in discussions with people who make you think and bring out the best in you will transform how you proceed. \*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can think it, but don't say it if you want to sidestep a controversial topic. Put your energy into research, discovery and broadening your sense of awareness and possibilities. Personal growth, along with self-improvement, will bring the highest returns. \*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Step into the spotlight and take over. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose if you are direct, follow through and refuse to let anyone override your plans or set a destination. Follow your heart and head in a direction that excites you. Romance is favored. \*\*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't get caught in someone's drama or get involved in a joint venture that parts you from your cash. Work alone, and you'll get things done. Explore financial possibilities that add to your security, not to your stress. Be true to yourself and your beliefs. \*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Give your long-term financial and professional plan more thought. Revisit your dreams and discuss your options with someone you can count on for sound advice. A romantic adventure will bring you closer to someone you love and lead to a lifestyle change that saves money. \*\*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick close to home and nurture yourself and your surroundings. Modifications will ease stress and sprout ideas that give you something to look forward to with enthusiasm. Don't let the decisions or changes others make stand in your way. Do your own thing. \*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Plan to do something to take your mind off your worries. A social event or activity that offers self-improvement or a change of scenery will be uplifting and point you in a direction that is mentally, physically and emotionally healthy. Love and romance are in the stars. \*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You are responsible, unique and respected. You are inspiring and passionate.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

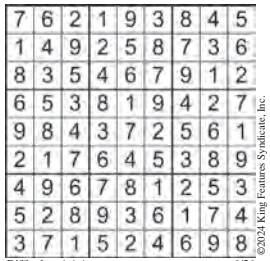
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: \*\*\* 6/27

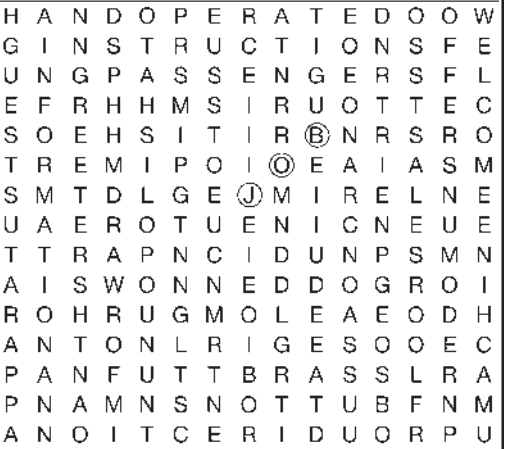
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ELEVATOR OPERATORS Solution: 8 letters



© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 6/27  
Announcements, Apparatus, Brass, British, Buttons, Direction, Floor, Forward, Girl, Greeters, Guests, Guides, Hand-operated, High-speed, House, Information, Instructions, Introduce, Job, Machine, Man, Modern, Offers, Open, Passengers, Patron, Polish, Proud, Rise, Sales, Select, Timing, Tourism, Training, Unload, Welcome, Wood  
Yesterday's Answer: Tropical  
The NEW Treasury 56 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Cleveland beats slumping Baltimore for their seventh straight win



## BALTIMORE

(AP)—José Ramírez hit a three-run homer in the fourth inning, and the Cleveland Guardians slugged their way to a seventh consecutive victory, beating the slumping Baltimore Orioles 10-8 on Tuesday night.

Gunnar Henderson, James McCann, Colton Cowser and Anthony Santander hit home runs for Baltimore, but that wasn't enough to prevent a fifth straight loss for the defending AL East champions. Pitching injuries have caught up to the Orioles, who haven't had a skid this long since dropping six in a row from May 13-18, 2022, days before catcher Adley Rutschman made his big league debut.

Ramírez has gone deep in each of the first two games of this series, and with 237 homers he's now in sole possession of third place on the franchise's career list. His drive to center capped a five-run fourth that put the Guardians up 8-4 on a night when neither starting pitcher lasted past the fourth.

Pedro Avila (2-1) worked two hitless innings of relief for the win. The AL Central-leading Guardians used five pitchers in relief of Logan Allen, who was removed with nobody out in the fourth.

Emmanuel Clase worked the ninth for his 25th save in 28 chances.

## TIGERS 4, PHILLIES 1

(AP)—Tarik Skubal struck out seven batters in seven scoreless innings as Detroit beat Philadelphia.

Skubal (9-3) allowed three hits and a walk while hitting one batter.

Andy Ibáñez had two hits, including a two-run single in Detroit's four-run fifth inning, as the Tigers ended a seven-game losing streak to the Phillies.

Bryce Harper homered off Tigers closer Jason Foley in the ninth.

The game was expected to be a pitcher's duel between probable All-Stars — Skubal and Ranger Suárez.

## RAYS 11, MARINERS 3

(AP)—Ben Rortvedt hit a two-run homer and finished with four RBIs, and Tampa Bay beat Seattle for their seventh win in nine games.

The Rays, at 40-40, returned to the .500 mark for the first time since June 7.

Seattle got homers from Ty France and Mitch Garver. The AL West-leading Mariners dropped to 2-6 on a nine-game trip.

In a span of six pitches from



Cleveland Guardians' Steven Kwan, right, is safe after stealing second base in front of Baltimore Orioles shortstop Gunnar Henderson, left, during the second inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, June 25, 2024, in Baltimore.

reliever Mike Baumann, the Rays scored four times in the sixth inning to take a, 6-2 lead. After Luis Castillo walked his last two batters, Taylor Walls tripled in a pair of runs on Baumann's first pitch, and Rortvedt followed with a two-run drive.

## PIRATES 9, REDS 5

(AP)—Bryan Reynolds extended the longest active hitting streak in the major leagues to 22 games with a two-run home run in the first inning and Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati.

Reynolds' streak is the longest by a Pirate since 2003 when Kenny Lofton hit safely in 26 straight games. Jason Kendall and Aramis Ramirez had 23- and 22-game streaks respectively.

It was a rough start for the Reds' Hunter Greene who was evaluated by training staff after throwing up on the mound in the first inning after issuing a six-pitch walk to leadoff batter Andrew McCutchen.

Reynolds followed with his home run on a 3-2 pitch to put the Pirates ahead 2-0.

## BLUE JAYS 9, RED SOX 4

(AP)—Vladimir Guerrero hit pair of two-run doubles, George Springer added a two-run homer and Toronto snapped a seven-game skid with a win over Boston.

The Blue Jays tagged Boston starter Brayan Bello for seven runs in the third inning, including Guerrero's drive to the triangle in center that scored two runs before Springer homered into Boston's bullpen.

Toronto had its highest scoring game since a 14-11 loss at Detroit on May 26. The Blue Jays hadn't won since beating Cleveland 7-6 on June 15, the day before

the Red Sox began a three-game sweep at Toronto that started the Jays' longest losing streak since September 2019.

## BREWERS 3, RANGERS 1

(AP)—Joey Ortiz hit a tiebreaking homer in the fifth inning to put Milwaukee ahead for good and Bryse Wilson threw six shutout innings in the Brewers' 3-1 victory over Texas.

Wilson (5-3) entered the game to start the third after Hoby Milner — normally a reliever — worked the first two innings. Milner became the 13th different pitcher to start a game for the Brewers this season, matching the Miami Marlins for the most of any team.

The six-inning stint matched Wilson's longest of the season. He struck out four and allowed three hits and no walks.

Ortiz led off the fifth by sending a 2-2 pitch from Andrew Heaney over the left-field wall for the rookie's seventh homer and a 2-1 lead.

## METS 9, YANKEES 7

(AP)—Mark Vientos hit a pair of solo homers and the New York Mets held off a furious rally by the AL East-leading New York Yankees for a win in the first Subway Series game of the season and their 11th victory in 14 games.

Vientos led off the second and fourth innings with home runs off Gerrit Cole (0-1) for the first multi-homer game of his career and became the 12th Mets player with at least two long balls in a Subway Series game.

Vientos had a chance to match Francisco Lindor's three-homer game against the Yankees on Sept. 12, 2021, but hit into a fielder's choice in the fifth and struck out in the seventh.

Harrison Bader and Brandon Nimmo also homered off Cole on fastballs clocked at 91 and 93 mph, respectively.

## MARLINS 2, ROYALS 1

(AP)—Nick Gordon's infield hit highlighted Miami's late two-out rally for a win over Kansas City.

After collecting just two singles in six scoreless innings against Seth Lugo, the Marlins recorded four hits in the seventh, scoring both runs with two out against relievers Carlos Hernández (0-1) and Will Smith.

Otto López doubled and scored the tying run on Gordon's two-out hit. Gordon later scored on Jazz Chisholm's infield hit and Smith's throwing error.

López had two hits and has four of the Marlins' 11 hits in the series.

Starter Yonny Chirinos and four Marlins relievers retired 15 consecutive Royals hitters before Salvador Pérez's single with one out in the ninth.

## ASTROS 5, ROCKIES 2

(AP)—Hunter Brown struck out seven in six scoreless innings and Chas McCormick drove in two runs as Houston used a big first inning to beat Colorado.

Brown (5-5) allowed two hits to win his fourth straight start and help the Astros tie a season-high with their sixth consecutive win.

Jake Meyers tied a season high with three hits and Jose Altuve had two hits and an RBI as the Astros moved with in a game of .500 at 39-40.

Michael Toglia hit a solo home run for Colorado with one out in the ninth and pinch-hitter Jacob Stallings walked with two outs. But Josh Hader struck out Brenton Doyle to end it.

## DODGERS 4, WHITE SOX 3

(AP)—Shohei Ohtani hit a leadoff homer and a tiebreaking RBI single, helping the Los Angeles top Chicago.

Led by Ohtani and Freddie Freeman, the Dodgers won for the seventh time in nine games. The NL West leaders are 50-31 at the midpoint of their schedule.

Ohtani drove a hanging curveball from Chris Flexen into the visitor's bullpen in right-center for his NL-best 24th homer. White Sox right fielder Tommy Pham tried to make a leaping grab on the play, but was unable to bring it in.

Ohtani also walked and scored on Freeman's two-run homer in the third inning. He batted again in the fourth and gave Los Angeles a 4-3 lead with a two-out RBI single.

Ohtani has driven in at least one run in his last nine games, matching a franchise record. The two-time AL MVP is batting .306 (26 for 85) with 10 homers and 22 RBIs in 22 games this month.

## DIAMONDBACKS 5, TWINS 4

(AP)—Ketel Marte hit a two-run homer in the first inning and drove in the go-ahead run with an infield hit in the seventh as Arizona beat Minnesota.

Marte, leading the All-Star voting as the National League's second baseman, hit his 16th homer off Joe Ryan, then beat out a slow roller to second with two out to break a 4-4 tie.

The Diamondbacks led 4-0 after two innings, but the Twins came back against Brandon Pfaadt. Byron Buxton, who just missed catching Eugenio Suárez's second-inning RBI triple at the wall in right center, led off the Twins' fifth with a home run to left-center.

Ryan Jeffers tied the game and ended Pfaadt's night with a three-run homer after a walk and an infield hit with one out in the seventh.

## GIANTS 5, CUBS 1

(AP)—Matt Chapman's two-run single highlighted a three-run eighth inning and six San Francisco pitchers combined for a four-hitter as the Giants beat Chicago.

Michael Conforto added an RBI single, and David Villar and Jorge Soler had sacrifice flies to help the Giants win their second straight following a five-game skid.

Conforto's run-scoring single gave San Francisco a lead in the second inning. Villar's sacrifice fly made it 2-0.

Michael Busch had an RBI single in the third for the Cubs, who lost for the fourth time in five games.

San Francisco rookie reliever Randy Rodríguez made his first career start, allowing one run and one hit with five strikeouts and two walks in 2 2/3 innings. Sean Hjelle followed with two scoreless innings.

## PADRES 9, NATIONALS 7

(AP)—Jurickson Profar hit a grand slam five innings after being in the middle of a benches-clearing dustup, and Manny Machado also hit a dramatic home run as San Diego beat Washington.

Profar's fourth career grand slam and second this season came with one out in the sixth off Derek Law and the Petco Park crowd went wild. Profar craned to watch the ball sail just inside the foul pole and into the home run porch in right field. He tossed his bat aside, patted his chest and gestured to the Padres' dugout as he began his trot.

Profar, having a career year at 31 and on a \$1 million contract, is leading the balloting for NL outfielders for the All-Star Game. It was his 11th homer this season.

With one out in the first, Washington catcher Keibert Ruiz jawed at Profar and put a hand on his shoulder just before his at-bat.

## ANGELS 7, ATHLETICS 5

(AP)—Mickey Moniak hit his first career grand slam, and Taylor Ward also homered in the Los Angeles victory over Oakland.

Jo Adell had an RBI double and Logan O'Hoppe added an RBI single for the Halos, who have won three of four after taking two straight from Oakland.

Moniak cleared the bases with his fourth homer of the season to cap a five-run rally in the third. The former No. 1 overall pick has struggled despite getting regular playing time during his first full season with the Angels, but Moniak has improved sharply in recent weeks with improved plate discipline.

Brent Rooker hit his 14th homer and JJ Bleday had an RBI single for the last-place A's, who have lost four straight and 17 of 22. Oakland lost its 10th straight road game and dropped to a season-worst 24 games below .500.

Armando Alvarez got his first major league hit and his first RBI for the A's, ending the 29-year-old's epic quest for those achievements.



# Source: Knicks set to acquire Bridges in trade from Nets



**NEW YORK**  
(AP) — Mikal Bridges is being traded by the Brooklyn Nets to the New York Knicks, where he will join Jalen Brunson and his other former Villanova teammates, two people with knowledge of the details said Tuesday.

The first trade between the New York rivals since 1983 will put Bridges in the lineup alongside Brunson, Josh Hart and Donte DiVincenzo, players who helped the Wildcats win two NCAA championships and were the core of a Knicks lineup that reached the Eastern Conference semifinals last season.

The Knicks will pay big to get him, with ESPN reporting that they are sending Bojan Bogdanovic to the Nets along with four unprotected first-round picks and one protected pick. The deal was confirmed to The Associated Press under condition of anonymity because it is not yet official.

The Nets acquired Bridges from Phoenix in the deal for Kevin Durant in February 2023 and he went on to average 26.1 points the rest of that season in helping Brooklyn reach the playoffs. The swingman scored 19.6

points per game in 2023-24 but the Nets slipped to 32-50 and missed the postseason. And while his team was struggling, he couldn't help but notice how much fun his friends were having just a few miles away. The Knicks signed Brunson in the summer of 2022, traded for Hart in the 2022-23 season and then



Brooklyn Nets forward Mikal Bridges, left, scores past San Antonio Spurs center Victor Wembanyama, center, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Austin, Texas, March 17, 2024.

## With Sarr, Risacher in mix for No. 1 pick, NBA draft could be 'special' night for France

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Alex Sarr was born in France and spent last season playing in Australia. Zaccharie Risacher was born in Spain and is coming off a breakout season in France.

The next step in their global basketball journey is the NBA, with one of them potentially heading to Atlanta on Wednesday night as the No. 1 pick in the draft.

"We grew up together, competing against each other, and now we are here in New York for the draft and it's one day to realize our dream, you know?" Risacher said Tuesday. "So this is special."

It's a special time for France, which could have the No. 1 pick for a second straight season after Victor Wembanyama went to San Antonio last year amid enormous expectations and lived up to the hype in a Rookie of the Year season.

Neither Sarr, Risacher (pronounced Ree-zah-shay) nor anyone else will arrive with that type of promise, part of the reason the 2024 draft has long been viewed as a weak one. It's unclear which way the Hawks will lean, or even if they are focusing on the two French players.

"For us, I feel like this is a great class, to be honest,"

said Isaiah Collier, a guard from USC, where he was a teammate of LeBron James' son, Bronny James.

"Everybody says it's weak and everything like that, but for us I think it's wide open because there's a lot of good players and nobody really knows who's at the top."

They will find out at the start of what this year becomes a two-night draft. The first round will be held as usual at Barclays Center in Brooklyn and the second round moves Thursday to ESPN's Seaport District studios.

Much of the speculation surrounding the Hawks' choice since they won the draft lottery last month initially focused on Sarr, a well-traveled 7-footer from Bordeaux, France, who began his pro career in Spain with Real Madrid's youth team. He spent two years in the U.S. playing with Overtime Elite, a developmental league, and last season was with the Perth Wildcats in Australia's National Basketball League.

He should soon be able to settle in somewhere, whether it's back in Atlanta — where Overtime Elite is based — or Washington, Houston, San Antonio or Detroit, the teams that round out the top five spots.

"It's been a long journey of me changing a lot of countries and now I know that I'm going to be probably in the same place for a couple of years, so it's really exciting," Sarr said.

His basketball existence is hard to imagine for one of the players he could be competing with for the No. 1 spot. Fellow center Donovan Clingan, who has worked out for the Hawks, has spent his entire life near his birthplace of Bristol, Connecticut, where he went to high school before helping UConn win back-to-back national championships.

"I can't imagine traveling all over the world, just being away from my family and stuff," Clingan said. "Just feels like his whole playing career really, ever since he was a young kid, just being on the move. So I've been lucky enough and blessed enough to have an opportunity to continue to stay playing in Connecticut, but I'm really excited to move away and start a new chapter."

College teammate Stephon Castle is expected to join him in the top 10 picks, and Kentucky also could have a pair of players go early in freshmen guards Reed Sheppard and Rob Dillingham.

But that is nothing unusual for college basketball powerhouse programs. Kentucky had six players selected in both 2012 and 2015, the most in the two-round draft format that began in 1989, and the Huskies once went 2-3 in the draft with Emeka Okafor and Ben Gordon in 2004.

But this is a whole new deal for France—or any country other than the U.S. If Sarr or Risacher is taken first, it would mark the first time that the draft went consecutive years without the No. 1 pick being someone who played at an American college.

They were teammates on France's team that won a silver medal at the 2023 Under-19 World Cup, with Risacher scoring 13 points in a victory over the U.S. The 6-foot-9 forward also spent two seasons in France playing for ASVEL—owned by French Hall of Famer Tony Parker—and he was a one-time teammate of Wembanyama.

Now he could be France's next No. 1—unless an old friend beats him out.

"It would mean a lot," Sarr said. "I played with Zaccharie three years in a row, I'm really close with him, so I'm really happy for him and I think it's really special for France in general."

signed DiVincenzo last summer, and reached the second round in both seasons.

The four players helped Villanova win the 2016 NCAA title, and Brunson, Bridges and DiVincenzo were still there when the Wildcats won again in 2018.

They clearly can't wait to get the band back together.

"This is crazy lol," Bridges wrote on the social media platform X after the deal was reported.

Hart posted a picture of what appeared to be the four players smiling during a group video call.

The teams hadn't made a deal since 1983, when the Nets were still in New Jersey and sent Len Elmore to New York for a future draft pick. This one gives Brooklyn more picks to build through the draft or package in further trades.

The Knicks had picks to move and have been looking to strengthen a team that has been on the rise. They were a game away from their first appearance in the Eastern Conference finals since 2000 last season despite losing a number of key players to injuries before and during the postseason.

Their new addition, on the other hand, doesn't get hurt.

Bridges was the runner-up for Defensive Player of the Year in 2022 and is currently the NBA's most durable player, which should quickly make him a favorite of Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau. He has played in all 474 games in his career—and never missed a game in college, either—and led the league in minutes played in both 2021-22 and 2022-23.

## Raptors, Barnes agree on \$225M extension, which could grow to about \$270M

Scottie Barnes and the Toronto Raptors have agreed to terms on a max extension, one that will be worth about \$225 million over five years and could reach about \$270 million if he meets supermax criteria, a person with knowledge of the deal said Monday.

Barnes intends to sign the contract shortly after the league's moratorium on signings is lifted July 6, said the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot be announced by NBA rule until that time.

It would begin in the 2025-26 season, with a starting salary of about \$39 million and reaching about \$51 million in 2029-30—

unless he qualifies for a supermax contract next season, and then the numbers would get even higher.

Barnes will make about \$10 million this coming season, the last of his rookie deal.

He clearly is the player that the Raptors will build around over the coming years. He was the NBA's rookie of the year in 2021-22, was an All-Star for the first time this past season and has seen consistent jumps in his numbers. He averaged 19.9 points, 8.2 rebounds and 6.1 assists this past season, all career bests.

In his three-year pro career, the forward from Florida State is averaging 16.6 points, 7.4 rebounds and 4.7 assists. He was the No. 4 overall pick in the 2021 draft. (AP)



# Impressive field for Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open



The NMI-hosted Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024 that will run from July 2 to 7 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will feature two former World Junior champions, a reigning continental champion, and several Top 100 ranked players in the world.

Chinese Taipei's Kuo Kwan Lin, who ruled the men's singles play in the 2022 World Junior Championship held in Santander, Spain, leads the men's field in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024. Lin will be joined in the Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament by New Zealand's Edward Lau, who topped the men's singles event in the Oceania Championships 2024 that took place in Victoria, Australia in February. Lau also made it to the finals of the mixed doubles event (with Shaunna Li) of the same tournament before losing to the tandem of Kenneth Choo and inaugural Northern Marianas Open participant Gronya Somerville of Australia.

Lin and Lau are among the 200 players from 16 countries who registered for the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024, which will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kuo Kwan Lin, 2022 World Juniors champion, of Chinese Taipei is among the players to watch in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open that will run from July 2 to 7 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

kick off the pair of BWF-sanctioned events that Northern Marianas Badminton Association is bringing back to the islands following a successful hosting of two 2024 Paris Olympic Games qualifying tournament last year. The other competition, the Dove Saipan International 2024—is scheduled for July 9 to 13.

Besides the two champions, the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former World Junior Championship women's singles winner Riko Gunji is included in the impressive field of players competing in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024.

Open 2024 will also have former World No. 3 Hye Jeong Kim of South Korea and 2019 World Junior Championship winner Riko Gunji, who has won two of her last three tournaments this year. Gunji, who is among the seeded players in the women's singles, was crowned champion in the State Denmark Challenge 2024 in May and Toyota Thailand International Challenge in March. The Japanese also joined Luxembourg Open and placed second in the competition.

Gunji's notable rivals for the women's singles championship will be the seven players that are ranked in the Top 100—No. 58 Hsiang Ti of Chi-

nese-Taipei, No. 82 Sih Yun Lin, and No. 86 Ching Ping Huang and fellow Japanese Kaoru Sugiyama (No. 83), Asuka Takahashi (No. 85), and Akari Kurihara (No. 88). Chinese-Taipei's Yu-Hsuan Lee is ranked outside the Top 100, as she is currently at No. 103, but joins Gunji and six others on the list of seeded players in the women's singles.

In the men's singles, Lin is seeded No. 2 behind Sri Lanka's Viren Nettasinghe, who is the highest ranked player in the division at No. 74. Japan's Riku Hatano, Ryoma Muramoto, and Shoko Ogawa, Malaysia's Huang Yu and Chi Ting Chen com-

plete the list of seeded entries in the men's singles.

In the mixed doubles, the pair of Hiroki Nishi and Akari Sato is the top seed team and also the highest ranked players in the entire field of the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024 at No. 33.

Meanwhile, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said the badminton community is excited to welcome these top-level players and witness their brilliance on the court.

"When we first hosted the two BWF Grade 3 International Challenge/Paris Olympic Qualifiers, we were treated to high-level matches that have never been seen on the islands before. Our upcoming local players, especially our youth players, were able to watch these exciting games. This time, many of our young players will have a chance to play against these top players," Tolentino said.

"These are the opportunities afforded to us by hosting BWF-ranking tournaments—allowing our community to experience what it's like to watch high-level badminton matches, giving our players the much-needed exposure to international competitions, and supporting NMI's efforts in promoting sports tourism," the NMBA president added. (PR)

## ATHLETICS

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this time, they also set a new Micronesian Games record in the women's 10,000m by Tania Tan and a new NMI national record in the hammer throw by Lyle Andrew.

The superb performance didn't stop there as the team's young sprinters put their best foot forward to make great time and get into the finals of their multiple events. Also, many personal and season's bests were broken over the course of four days.

Rangamar said in an interview enroute to Saipan last Monday, "I'm very proud of these kids. Even the veteran athletes helped me keep them in line and all that. I really am ecstatic and I think everybody is excited to

go back and get ready for the Mini Games in Palau in 2025."

For Andrew, who set a new national record with his hammer throw of 33.57m, Rangamar said, "he actually told me he might not make it to the Games—but I just told him to shut up and come—and see, he broke the record."

For Tan's record-breaking run once again, he said, "We knew—she's like our gold standard, so we follow her and we're proud of her. She's also taking her leadership role in the group. She's kind of being more open and talking with the younger athletes, so I appreciate that from her."

He also said that Daniel Joab, who was one of the oldest athletes on the team, did a great job and had a bronze medal to show for it in the hammer throw.

Casey Cruz, who recently com-

peted in Fiji for the 2024 Oceania Athletics Championships a few days before the Micro Games, broke her personal best despite an injury. Rangamar said she will be representing the NMI in the 2024 World Athletics U20 Championships in Lima, Peru from August 27-31.

Meanwhile, seasoned sprinter Zarinae Sapong also broke a personal best in the 100m with a time of 12.87 seconds in the finals, after resetting it the first time in the prelims at 12.95 seconds. She said, "I'm just so happy to break my PB and to have even made it to the finals—and break my PB again... Honestly, I had no idea until my teammates let me know later on when we got on the bus to the village. I'm just very grateful to have come out of the competition healthy and to witness my teammates doing their thing."

Rangamar said, "I'm just proud of everybody—the whole team. I just have no words to explain. They're good kids. Takeru Jim and Christopher Cruz are just freshmen and competed against men—and they did pretty good. I'm sure this will help them for next year or in the next Micro Games."

With how the team's stint will inspire future track and fielders, he said, "I need them to help me to start inviting friends. They're really good with social media so that's another way to inspire kids to try out. Hopefully the media exposure helps too. We're going to try and see if we can do monthly camps during the off season too to start looking at talents—so when the season comes, everybody has an idea of all the basic stuff."

As for Team NMI's medal haul in

the Games, he said, "props to Jerry Tan. Since he came in, our sports programs have excelled. It all starts with Jerry and the board [Northern Marianas Sports Association]. And swimming? 49 gold medals? It's just amazing. And our total of 70 gold? That's hard to believe—wow. Tennis as well—amazing—but then again, it all starts with Jerry."

On the athletics team with Tan, Sapong, Casey and Christopher, Lyle, Joab, Jim, were Pony Tang, Jared Ayuyu, Justin Camacho, Cody Shimuzu, Simon Tang, Bwilitomwar Rangamar, Maria Quitugua, Kina Rangamar, Cheraline Epity, and Liamwar Rangamar. Michael Miller was supposed to compete, but he was in the swim team, and Douglas Schmidt didn't compete as well as he was also in the basketball team.

## WRESTLING

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Greco-Roman, and beach wrestling for a total of six medals for the team.

Rick Bauer said after the Games, "I look forward to this coming year and the anticipated growth for NMI Wrestling at the adult, teen and youth levels. We are already discussing the Games in 2025 and I would love to take a full team of wrestlers to Palau next summer. I look forward to the development of more wrestling talent in Saipan and continuing to watch wrestling grow in the CNMI."

He then made a call for anyone interested in wrestling to contact Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation on Facebook. "Taking a full and capable men's and women's wrestling team to Palau would be great!" he said.

The 12th Pacific Mini Games will be held in Koror, Palau with the anticipated dates from June 29 to July 9, 2025.

As for Greene and Babauta's performance in the 2024 Micro Games, he said, "I am very proud of both Jr. and Ryan and their efforts and performance over these past three days at the games. Over the past few weeks of training, and also everyday while we were here competing, I continually verbalized to them the goals and expectations of our trip to Majuro, that we were here to go to work, perform with dominance and earn gold in all three styles, and they did exactly that, three golds each in dominant fashion. I told them both that I am very proud of the way they wrestled and carried themselves this weekend."

As to whether they exceeded his expectations, he said, "I have to ad-

mit, my expectations were very high, so it's more that they executed the plan and met expectations. I have been wrestling with Junior and Ryan a lot over this training period and I know what they're capable of, so admittedly, I had high expectations for both of them, and again, I'm very proud of how they both wrestled."

Then, Bauer, on behalf of the Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation said, "I want to thank all of our sponsors, donors and those from the CNMI community who supported us financially and enabled us to get the gear we needed and cover the costs for these Micro Games, we would not be bringing back these gold medals if not for them. Also, thanks to Trench Tech who was extremely accommodating in giving us mat space to train while we still work to obtain wrestling mats and a home for NMI wrestling!"

## CALL

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is some of the best ways to improve their game."

The Marshall Islands' unpredictable weather caused many delays and with the short time frame of just four days for tennis competitions, almost each player had to play five to six back-to-back games in a day. Some days, they played well into the night.

With that hectic schedule, Race said, "It was super difficult physically for our players—especially for our Top 2 men and our Top 2 women because I think they played six matches in a day. I'd estimate they were playing tennis for eight hours."

He then emphasized, "I hope they never let this happen again. Don't ever make the mistake of scheduling the games in just a short time. It was just really, really insane."

The finals had to be played in short sets due to a two-hour long rain delay and Race feared they wouldn't have been able to finish up the tournament, but in the end, he said, "we got it in, and we won. I couldn't be happier. I think it's a fantastic achievement for our young players."

He added that their win in the team competition on the first day of Games really did set the tone for NMI in their eventual sweep of the tournament. However, he did say team Pohnpei gave them a run for their money at times. "None of it was really easy. It was all super close. Pohnpei has made a strong performance in these Games and they're a team to be reckoned with," he said.

He did say that Guam didn't bring in all their best players, and if they did, it would've been tougher for the NMI team. But he said, "I don't care! We won all the gold medals—I don't care."





Cleveland  
beats slumping  
Baltimore for  
their seventh  
straight win  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## AFTER SWEEP OF MICRO GAMES GOLD

# Call for nat'l tennis training facility

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The NMI National Tennis Team swept all events in the 10th Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands for a total of seven gold medals, plus two bronze, and with that, the team's head coach and Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race hopes it results in the building of a national tennis training facility.



LEIGH GASES

The NMI National Women's Tennis players from left Hoo Wang and Isabel Heras, pose for a photo after their winning gold in the women's doubles finals in the 10th Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands. The women's team also consists of Hannah Chae and Irin Chung who won bronze in the women's singles.



LEIGH GASES

The NMI National Men's Tennis Team from left, Colin Ramsey, Si Woo Lee, and Robbie Schorr, poses for a photo after winning gold in the team event in the 10th Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands.

The tennis team racked up gold in all events—men's and women's team event; men's (Robbie Schorr) and women's singles (Isabel Heras); men's doubles (Schorr and Colin Ramsey) and women's doubles (Heras and Hoo Wang); and the mixed doubles (Heras and Schorr); while the bronze medals came in the women's singles

(Irin Chung), and mixed doubles (Wang and Ramsey).

Race hopes this jumpstarts the CNMI government into getting a site to build a national tennis training facility for their athletes. "If this performance helps us toward that, then I'll be really happy with that," he said.

As for the tennis teams' gold rush and performance in

the games, he said, "I'm really proud of them."

"They came through in every clutch situation. Not only did we win all the gold, we won two bronzes too and I think Irin Chung really had a great performance in the women's singles; Hoo Wang came through with Colin Ramsey to win the bronze in the mixed

doubles, so I was really happy some of these young players can win individual medals," he said.

He then said, "I think this was really an educational experience for these kids to come into this. They're sort of exposed to having to take their game to a new level—which

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## 'Athletics team exceeded expectations'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gold medalist NMI Athletics' Lyle Andrew atop the podium during his national record-breaking hammer throw. He is joined by bronze medalist NMI's Daniel Joab, and silver medalist Nauru's Jonathan Detageouwa during the hammer throw's award ceremony of the 10th Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands last Thursday.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The NMI National Athletics Team exceeded coach Elias Rangamar's expectations during their stint in the 10th Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands.

With a medal haul of five

gold medals, two silver medals, and six bronze medals, for a total of 13 medals, Rangamar said the athletics team beat their record showing from the 2010 Micro Games in Palau.

Not only did the team haul in more than a dozen medals

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## Wrestling aims for full team for 2025 Mini Games team in Palau

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

After the successful debut sweep of gold by the NMI National Wrestling Team in the 10th Micronesian Games

at the Marshall Islands, their sights are now set for the 2025 Pacific Mini Games in Palau.

The Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation made a comeback in NMI sports with their newfound formation in

2022 by board president Jason Tarkong, vice president and head coach Rick Bauer, and treasurer Kerri Bauer.

Just two years later in the recently concluded 10th Micronesian Games, they blew all

Micronesian wrestlers away with their skill on the mat as James Attao-Greene Jr. and Ryan Babauta swept the gold in their weight classes of all three competitions—freestyle,

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LEIGH GASES

NMI wrestler Ryan Babauta tries to find an opening during his 97-kg division in the Greco-Roman competition at the International Convention Center during the 10th Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands.



LEIGH GASES

NMI wrestler James Attao-Greene Jr. locks to get a grip on his opponent during his 77-kg division in the Greco-Roman competition at the International Convention Center during the 10th Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands.



LEIGH GASES

Seasoned sprinter Zarinae Sapong takes off in a hurry during the 4x400m relay of the 10th Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands last Saturday.